

## ***Interactive comment on “Full-tensor gravity gradient eigenvector analysis for locating complex geological source positions” by Boxin Zuo et al.***

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Reply: The purpose to introduce  $\Phi Z$  in GTA is to distinguish the negative and positive anomaly in a data. As Fig.13 f. shows,  $\tan\varphi$  will always be a positive value. To distinguish both of the negative and positive source in GTA, we added  $\Phi z$  in. We did not design GTA as an amplification filter of  $\Phi z$ . Because the numerical rang of  $\tan\varphi$  is relatively very large. For example, in field data experiment,  $\tan\varphi$  in the rang of  $[0, 1.472e+03]$ . While  $\Phi z$  in the range of  $[-18, 21]$  which nearly 1% of  $\tan\varphi$ . The main contribution of  $\Phi z$  is identify the anomaly is positive of negative at a corresponding position. Yes,  $\tan\varphi$  is used to local the centers of sources. But the edge information is also extracted from  $\tan\varphi$ .  $\tan\varphi$  display a peak value at the source center, and it will also display as a relative small value which in the position nearby the source centers. So we utilize these small  $\tan\varphi$  values to delineate the contours of sources. Yes,  $\Phi z z$

provides more detail information of source than  $\Phi z$ . But in this research, for the goal of distinguishing the negative and positive source,  $\Phi z$  can provide enough information. Thanks for your valuable suggestion, in further research, we want add  $\Phi z z$  in and utilizes it to extract more detail source information.

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