

# Xiaolong Wei

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## Education

2018–2022      **Ph.D. in Geophysics**, University of Houston, Houston, USA  
2015–2018      **M.S. in Geology**, Northwest University, Xi'an, China  
2011–2015      **B.S. in Geophysics**, China University of Geosciences, Beijing, China

## Professional Appointment

2023–present      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Stanford University, Stanford, USA

## Research Interests

- **Detect, characterize, and monitor subsurface green energy resources**
  - Critical Earth and mineral resources, carbon capture and sequestration, hydrogen storage, and geothermal energy
  - Subsurface model reconstruction using multiple geoscientific observations (e.g., geophysics, geochemistry, geology, rock physics, etc)
- **Decision-driven geosciences**
  - Uncertainty quantification
  - Critical mineral drilling deployment and CO2 storage site selection
- **Algorithm development for geosciences**
  - Bayes' theorem, optimization, statistics, and deep learning
- **Drone geophysics**
  - Magnetic, electromagnetic, and LiDAR data acquisition
  - Applications of ground water, abandoned wells, and volcano

## Publications

### Peer-reviewed

12. **Wei, X.**, Yin, Z., Schedit, C., Darnell, K., Wang, L. and Caers, J., 2023. Constructing priors for geophysical inversions constrained by surface and borehole geochemistry *Surveys in Geophysics*, (under review)
11. **Wei, X.**, Sun, J. and Sen, M., 2023. 3D Monte Carlo geometry inversion using gravity data. *Geophysics*, (under review)
10. **Wei, X.**, Sun, J. and Sen, M., 2023. Reconstruction of multiple salt bodies using trans-dimensional Monte Carlo gravity inversion. *Geophysical Journal International*, (under revision)
9. Li L., Xiao E., **Wei, X.**, Qiu N., Latif K., Guo J. and Sun B., 2023. Crustal Imaging across the Princess Elizabeth Land, East Antarctica from 2D Gravity and Magnetic Inversions. *Remote Sensing*, 15(23):5523. doi:[10.3390/rs15235523](https://doi.org/10.3390/rs15235523).
8. Hu, Y., **Wei, X.**, Wu, X., Sun, J., Chen, J., Huang, Y. and Chen, J., 2023. 3D cooperative inversion of airborne magnetic and gravity gradient data using deep learning techniques. *Geophysics*, doi:[10.1190/geo2023-0225.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/geo2023-0225.1).
7. Hu, Y., **Wei, X.**, Wu, X., Sun, J., Chen, J., Huang, Y. and Chen, J., 2023. A deep learning enhanced framework for multi-physics joint inversion. *Geophysics*, 88(1), pp.1-70. doi:[10.1190/geo2021-0589.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/geo2021-0589.1).
6. **Wei, X.**, Sun, J. and Sen, M., 2023. Quantifying uncertainty of salt body shapes recovered from gravity data using trans-dimensional Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling. *Geophysical Journal International*, 232(3), pp.1957-1978. doi:[10.1093/gji/ggac430](https://doi.org/10.1093/gji/ggac430).
5. **Wei, X.**, Li, K. and Sun, J., 2022. Mapping critical mineral resources using airborne geophysics, 3D joint inversion and geology differentiation: A case study of a buried niobium deposit in the Elk Creek carbonatite, Nebraska, USA. *Geophysical Prospecting*. doi:[10.1111/1365-2478.13280](https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2478.13280).
4. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2022. 3D probabilistic geology differentiation based on airborne geophysics, mixed Lp norm joint inversion and petrophysical measurements. *Geophysics*, 87(4), pp.1-67. doi:[10.1190/geo2021-0833.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/geo2021-0833.1). **Nominated by editors to be highlighted in Geophysics Bright Spots in The Leading Edge** ([link](#)).
3. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2021. Uncertainty analysis of 3D potential-field deterministic inversion using mixed L p norms. *Geophysics*, 86(6), pp.G133-G158. doi:[10.1190/geo2020-0672.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/geo2020-0672.1).
2. Sun, J. and **Wei, X.**, 2020. Recovering sparse models in 3D potential-field inversion without bound dependence or staircasing problems using a mixed Lp-norm regularization. *Geophysical Prospecting*, 69(4), pp.901-910. doi:[10.1111/1365-2478.13063](https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2478.13063).
1. Sun, J., Melo, A., Kim, J.D. and **Wei, X.**, 2020. Unveiling the 3D undercover structure of a Precambrian intrusive complex by integrating airborne magnetic and gravity gradient data into 3D quasi-geology model building. *Interpretation*, 8(4), pp.1-50. doi:[10.1190/INT-2019-0273.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/INT-2019-0273.1).

## Conference proceedings

9. Hu, Y., **Wei, X.**, Wu, X., Sun, J., Huang, Y. and Chen, J., 2023, August. 3D Joint Inversion of Multi-physics Data Using Deep Learning Techniques. In *2023 XXXVth General Assembly and Scientific Symposium of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI GASS)* (pp. 1-4). IEEE. doi:[10.23919/URSIGASS57860.2023.10265612](https://doi.org/10.23919/URSIGASS57860.2023.10265612).
8. **Wei, X.**, Sun, J. and Sen, M., 2022. Trans-dimensional Bayesian gravity inversion and uncertainty analysis for salt reconstruction. In *IMAGE Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2022*. doi:[10.1190/image2022-3746659.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/image2022-3746659.1).
7. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2021. 3D probabilistic geology differentiation using mixed L p norm joint inversion constrained by petrophysical information. In *IMAGE Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2021*. doi:[10.1190/segam2021-3586619.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/segam2021-3586619.1). **Best Student Paper in the Mining Sessions.**
6. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2021. Uncertainty analysis of 3D geophysical inversion using airborne gravity gradient data conditioned on rock sample measurements. In *IMAGE Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2021*. doi:[10.1190/segam2021-3586552.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/segam2021-3586552.1).
5. Hu, Y., **Wei, X.**, Wu, X., Sun, J., Chen, J., Chen, J., Huang, Y., 2021. Deep learning-enhanced multiphysics joint inversion. In *IMAGE Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2021*. doi:[10.1190/segam2021-3583667.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/segam2021-3583667.1).
4. Li, K., **Wei, X.**, Sun, J., 2021. Geophysical characterization of a buried niobium and rare earth element deposit using 3D joint inversion and geology differentiation: A case study on the Elk Creek carbonatite2021. In *IMAGE Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2021*. doi:[10.1190/segam2021-3585069.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/segam2021-3585069.1). **Best Paper in the Mining Sessions.**
3. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2020. Uncertainty analysis of joint inversion using mixed Lp-norm regularization. In *SEG Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2020* (pp. 925-929). Society of Exploration Geophysicists. doi:[10.1190/segam2020-3428359.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/segam2020-3428359.1).
2. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2020. Quantifying uncertainties of deterministic geophysical inversions using mixed Lp norms. In *SEG Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2020* (pp. 1404-1408). Society of Exploration Geophysicists. doi:[10.1190/segam2020-3420227.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/segam2020-3420227.1). **Best Poster in the Mining Sessions.**
1. Sun, J., Melo, A., Deok Kim, J. and **Wei, X.**, 2020. Characterizing a Precambrian intrusive complex by integrating potential field data into 3D quasi-geology model building. In *SEG Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2020* (pp. 1374-1378). Society of Exploration Geophysicists. doi:[10.1190/segam2020-3428385.1](https://doi.org/10.1190/segam2020-3428385.1).

## Conference abstracts

9. **Wei, X.**, Yin, Z., Schedit, C., Darnell, K., Wang, L. ad Caers, J., 2023, December. Quantifying uncertainty for sediment-hosted mineral deposits using multiple geoscientific observations and Bayesian evidential learning. In *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts*.
8. Sun, J., and **Wei, X.**, 2023, August. Mapping critical mineral resources using multiphysics inversion. In *IMAGE Technical Program Abstracts 2023*.
7. Hu, Y., **Wei, X.**, Wu, X., Sun, J., Chen, J., Chen, J., Huang, Y., 2023, August. Deep learning enhanced joint inversion for mineral exploration using airborne geophysics: Application in Decorah area. In *IMAGE Technical Program Abstracts 2023*.

6. **Wei, X.**, Sun, J. and Sen, M., 2023, August. 3D trans-dimensional Monte Carlo geometry inversion and uncertainty quantification using gravity data. In *IMAGE Technical Program Abstracts 2023*.
5. Sun, J., **Wei, X.** and Sen, M., 2023, August. Uncertainty quantification of anomalous body shapes using potential field data in a trans-dimensional Bayesian framework, *XXVIII General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)* (Berlin 2023). doi:[10.57757/IUGG23-4343](https://doi.org/10.57757/IUGG23-4343).
4. **Wei, X.**, Sun, J. and Sen, M., 2022, December. A Bayesian framework for uncertainty analysis of anomalous body shapes using gravity data. In *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts* (Vol. 2022, pp. NG35B-0469).
3. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2021, December. Building 3D probabilistic geology differentiation models using mixed Lp norm joint inversion, airborne geophysics and petrophysical information. In *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts* (Vol. 2021, pp. NG25A-0485).
2. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2021, December. Analyzing uncertainty of 3D inversion using airborne geophysical data conditioned on petrophysical measurements. In *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts* (Vol. 2021, pp. NS35C-0373).
1. Li, K., **Wei, X.**, Sun, J., 2021, December. Characterizing a buried niobium deposit using airborne geophysics, joint inversion, and geology differentiation. In *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts* (Vol. 2021, pp. NS24A-05).

## Open code and data

3. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2021. Joint inversion of gravity gradient and magnetic data using mixed Lp norm regularization (1.0). *Zenodo*. doi:[10.5281/zenodo.5774303](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5774303).
2. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., 2021. Interactive geology differentiation and 3D visualization of geological units (1.0). *Zenodo*. doi:[10.5281/zenodo.5774309](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5774309).
1. Sun, J., and **Wei, X.**, 2020. Solving the bound dependence and staircasing problems in 3D potential-field sparse inversions using a mixed Lp-norm regularization (1.0). *Zenodo*. doi:[10.5281/zenodo.4057134](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4057134).

## Invited Talks

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| 09/2023 | <i>IMAGE Post-Convention Workshop W7</i> . <b>Wei, X.</b> , Yin, Z., Scheidt, C., Darnell, K., Wang, L. and Caers, J., Uncertainty quantification of the stratigraphic model conditioned on airborne geophysics, geochemistry, and drillholes. Houston, USA.             |
| 07/2023 | <i>IUGG</i> . Sun, J., and <b>Wei, X.</b> , Building probabilistic quasi-geology models and mapping mineral resources using joint inversion and geology differentiation. Berlin, Germany. doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.57757/IUGG23-4333">10.57757/IUGG23-4333</a> . |
| 09/2022 | <i>Geophysical Society of Houston</i> . <b>Wei, X.</b> , Sun, J. and Sen, M., A Bayesian framework for uncertainty quantification of salt body shapes using gravity data. Houston, USA.  |
| 11/2021 | <i>Geophysical Society of Houston</i> . <b>Wei, X.</b> and Sun, J., Build probabilistic quasi-geology models based on multiple airborne geophysical data and sparse joint inversions. Online.  |

09/2021 *SimPEG monthly seminar*. **Wei, X.** and Sun, J., From deterministic to probabilistic geoscience modeling: analyzing uncertainties of geophysical inversions and constructing probabilistic subsurface models conditioned on petrophysical measurements. Online.

## Teaching Experience

2020 GEOL7330: Potential Field Methods of Geophysical Exploration (graduate core course), **guest lecturer**. *University of Houston*.

2019 GEOL4355: Geophysical Field Camp, **teaching assistant**. *University of Houston*.

## Grants

2020–2021 \$1,000; Proposal: “Uncertainty Analysis of Geophysical Inversions Conditioned on Spatial Distributions of Geologic Units”; Student Research Funding Program (independent of advisor) from EAS Department at University of Houston; PI: Xiaolong Wei

## Awards & Honors

2022 Dan E. Wells Outstanding Dissertation Award, University of Houston ([link](#))

2022 The Innovation Prize in Frank Arnott - Next Generation Explorers Award (\$3,000CAD)

2022 SEG Lucien LaCoste Scholarship (\$5,305.12)

2022 Outstanding Graduate Work in Geophysics, University of Houston (\$1,250)

2022 The Best Paper in the Mining Sessions at 2021 IMAGE Annual Meeting, Denver, USA (co-author)

2022 The Best Student Paper in the Mining Sessions at 2021 IMAGE Annual Meeting, Denver, USA

2021 Student Travel Award, University of Houston, Houston

2021 SEG Technical Program Registration Grant

2021 SEG John R. Butler Jr. Scholarship (\$510.86)

2021 The Best Poster in the Mining Sessions at 2020 SEG Annual Meeting, Online

2020–2021 Outstanding Academic Achievement, University of Houston (\$700×2)

2016–2018 The First Prize Scholarship, Northwest University, Xi’an, China (×3)

2015 The Best Bachelor Thesis, China University of Geosciences, Beijing, China

2013                      The Second Prize Scholarship, China University of Geosciences, Beijing, China

## Professional Service & Outreach

### Editorial Service

2023–present            Guest Associate Editor for Geophysics special section: Frontiers in Electromagnetic Geophysics

### Peer-Reviewer

2023–present            Geophysical Prospecting  
2023–present            Solid Earth  
2022–present            Geocarto International  
2022                      SEG Conference Proceeding  
2021–present            Geophysics  
2021–present            Geophysical Journal International  
2021–present            IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing  
2021–present            Acta Geophysica

### Organizations and Conferences

2023–2025              Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) Research Committee Early-career (RCEC) subcommittee  
2023                      Session Co-convenor: Advancing mineral exploration and responsible mining for energy transitions, AGU, San Francisco, California, USA  
2023                      Session Chair for MME 1: Mineral Exploration: Geophysics 1 at IMAGE Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, USA  
2022                      Session Chair for GM 1: Inversion Insights at IMAGE Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, USA  
2021                      Session Chair for MG P1: New Methods and Case Histories 1 at IMAGE Annual Meeting (SEG and AAPG joint annual conference), Denver, Colorado, USA

### Affiliations

2022–Present            European Geosciences Union (EGU)  
2021–Present            Geophysical Society of Houston (GSH)

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| 2020–Present | American Geophysical Union (AGU), European Association of Geoscientists & Engineers (EAGE) |
| 2018–Present | Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)   |

## Others

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| 2020–2021 | Contributor of the joint inversion code to SimPEG ( <a href="https://simpeg.xyz/">https://simpeg.xyz/</a> ) |
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## Certifications

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| 2022 | Convolutional Neural Networks course given by Dr. Andrew Ng through Coursera, Inc.                          |
| 2022 | Remote pilot for the small unmanned aircraft system issued by Federal Aviation Administration               |
| 2021 | FAA Part 107 Knowledge Test Prep for Drone Pilot on Udemy, Inc.   |
| 2021 | ISInProG@Lario - 2021 International School on Inverse Problems in Geophysics on the shore of the Lario Lake |
| 2021 | Magnetotellurics (MT) short course given by Dr. Alan G. Jones   |
| 2018 | Machine Learning course given by Dr. Andrew Ng through Coursera, Inc.                                       |