

## Report on IEEE SMC Distinguished Lecture by Professor MengChu Zhou

On 30 December 2023, we were honored to invite Professor Mengchu Zhou to give a Distinguished Lecture at the South China University of Technology, Guangzhou, China. There were about 20 teachers and students attending this lecture and participating in discussions, all of them are IEEE SMC members/student members. Professor Mengchu Zhou is a distinguished Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering of the New Jersey Institute of Technology and has a deep foundation in Petri nets, intelligent automation, AI, and so on. He is a Fellow of IEEE, International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Chinese Association of Automation (CAA) and National Academy of Inventors (NAI).

The Distinguished Lecture was chaired by Prof. Wei-Neng Chen, the Deputy Dean of School of Computer Science and Engineering, SCUT, the Vice Chair of IEEE Guangzhou Section and also the Chair of IEEE SMC Guangzhou Chapter. During the lecture, Professor Mengchu Zhou enthusiastically shared their team's work and insightful views on “Accelerating Evolutionary Algorithms to Solve High-dimensional Expensive Problems via Autoencoders”. He vividly and interestingly mobilized the atmosphere of the scene, and combined with a wealth of professional knowledge, to help students understand the acceleration effect of autoencoders on evolutionary algorithms.



The atmosphere of the lecture was warm, and students actively participated in the discussion and asked questions. Professor Mengchu Zhou gently answered the students' questions and gave insightful suggestions. Students said that through this lecture, they gained a deeper understanding of evolutionary algorithms and how to improve the efficiency of evolutionary algorithms.



The lecture was a great success. It not only deepened the communication between the team of Professor Mengchu Zhou and the team of South China University of Technology, but also provided new ideas for students to further study evolutionary algorithms.