Problems in combustion and reacting flows require a variety of experimental approaches, depending on the spatial and time scales that need to be resolved, and the level of detail required. In this talk, we describe different problems in reacting flows and thermoacoustics. We begin by discussing the structure of turbulent flames at the microscale, followed by understanding the flow macroscale, and finally the study of thermoacoustics and entropy spots. In each case, we discuss the original question, the experimental approaches to answering the question and their pitfalls, and the systematic yet occasionally serendipitous route to model validation – or not.

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