

# **A comparison of conventional and imprecise probability approaches to statistics**

Marco Cattaneo

Department of Statistics, LMU Munich

CFE-ERCIM 2012, Oviedo, Spain

1 December 2012

# introduction

- ▶ **original title:** Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?

# introduction

- ▶ **original title:** Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)

# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)

# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)
- ▶ only statistical **inference**: given a statistical model  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$

# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)
- ▶ only statistical **inference**: given a statistical model  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ a **personal** viewpoint

# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)
- ▶ only statistical **inference**: given a statistical model  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ a **personal** viewpoint

**fundamental problem of practical statistics** (Pearson, 1920): An “event” has occurred  $p$  times out of  $p + q = n$  trials, where we have no a priori knowledge of the frequency of the event in the total population of occurrences. What is the probability of its occurring  $r$  times in a further  $r + s = m$  trials?

# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)
- ▶ only statistical **inference**: given a statistical model  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ a **personal** viewpoint

**fundamental problem of practical statistics** (Pearson, 1920): An “event” has occurred  $p$  times out of  $p + q = n$  trials, where we have no a priori knowledge of the frequency of the event in the total population of occurrences. What is the probability of its occurring  $r$  times in a further  $r + s = m$  trials?

- ▶ sequence of binary **random variables**:  $(X_1, X_2, \dots) \in \mathcal{X} = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$



# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)
- ▶ only statistical **inference**: given a statistical model  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ a **personal** viewpoint

**fundamental problem of practical statistics** (Pearson, 1920): An “event” has occurred  $p$  times out of  $p + q = n$  trials, where we have no a priori knowledge of the frequency of the event in the total population of occurrences. What is the probability of its occurring  $r$  times in a further  $r + s = m$  trials?

- ▶ sequence of binary **random variables**:  $(X_1, X_2, \dots) \in \mathcal{X} = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$
- ▶ **statistical model**:  $X_1, X_2, \dots \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Ber}(\theta)$  with  $\theta \in \Theta = [0, 1]$

# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)
- ▶ only statistical **inference**: given a statistical model  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ a **personal** viewpoint

**fundamental problem of practical statistics** (Pearson, 1920): An “event” has occurred  $p$  times out of  $p + q = n$  trials, where we have no a priori knowledge of the frequency of the event in the total population of occurrences. What is the probability of its occurring  $r$  times in a further  $r + s = m$  trials?

- ▶ sequence of binary **random variables**:  $(X_1, X_2, \dots) \in \mathcal{X} = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$
- ▶ **statistical model**:  $X_1, X_2, \dots \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Ber}(\theta)$  with  $\theta \in \Theta = [0, 1]$
- ▶ **data**:  $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i = p$

# introduction

- ▶ **original title**: Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?
- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)
- ▶ only **statistics** (not personal decision making)
- ▶ only statistical **inference**: given a statistical model  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ a **personal** viewpoint

**fundamental problem of practical statistics** (Pearson, 1920): An “event” has occurred  $p$  times out of  $p + q = n$  trials, where we have no a priori knowledge of the frequency of the event in the total population of occurrences. What is the probability of its occurring  $r$  times in a further  $r + s = m$  trials?

- ▶ sequence of binary **random variables**:  $(X_1, X_2, \dots) \in \mathcal{X} = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$
- ▶ **statistical model**:  $X_1, X_2, \dots \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Ber}(\theta)$  with  $\theta \in \Theta = [0, 1]$
- ▶ **data**:  $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i = p$
- ▶ **quantity of interest**:  $P_\theta(\sum_{i=n+1}^{n+m} X_i = r) = \binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$

# comparison

**Bayesian approach**

**classical approach**

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea**: uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model**:  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: prior probability distribution

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior probability distribution
- ▶ **result:** posterior probability distribution (expectation / mode, credible interval/region)



# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior probability distribution
- ▶ **result:** posterior probability distribution (expectation / mode, credible interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, temporal, likelihood principle, ...)

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior probability distribution
- ▶ **result:** posterior probability distribution (expectation / mode, credible interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, temporal, likelihood principle, ...)

**example:** fundamental problem of practical statistics

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior probability distribution
- ▶ **result:** posterior probability distribution (expectation / mode, credible interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, temporal, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of prior probability distribution: e.g., **conjugate** prior  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea**: uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model**:  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: prior probability distribution
- ▶ **result**: posterior probability distribution (expectation / mode, credible interval/region)
- ▶ **properties**: invariances (transformation, temporal, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of prior probability distribution: e.g., **conjugate** prior  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$
- ▶  $\beta = \alpha$  from symmetry, but choice of  $\alpha$  is **difficult** (Bayes: 1, Jeffreys:  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Haldane: 0)

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea**: uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model**:  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: prior probability distribution
- ▶ **result**: posterior probability distribution (expectation / mode, credible interval/region)
- ▶ **properties**: invariances (transformation, temporal, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of prior probability distribution: e.g., **conjugate** prior  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$
- ▶  $\beta = \alpha$  from symmetry, but choice of  $\alpha$  is **difficult** (Bayes: 1, Jeffreys:  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Haldane: 0)
- ▶ **posterior** probability distribution:  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha + p, \beta + q)$

# Bayesian approach

- ▶ **central idea**: uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a probability distribution  $\pi$  on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model**:  $\pi \times P_\theta$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: prior probability distribution
- ▶ **result**: posterior probability distribution (expectation / mode, credible interval/region)
- ▶ **properties**: invariances (transformation, temporal, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of prior probability distribution: e.g., **conjugate** prior  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$
- ▶  $\beta = \alpha$  from symmetry, but choice of  $\alpha$  is **difficult** (Bayes: 1, Jeffreys:  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Haldane: 0)
- ▶ **posterior** probability distribution:  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha + p, \beta + q)$
- ▶ expectation and credible interval **for**  $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$  analytically or numerically

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea:** comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea:** comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$



# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea**: comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model**:  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: inference method (or comparison criterion)

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea:** comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** inference method (or comparison criterion)
- ▶ **result:** inference (point estimate, confidence interval/region)

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea:** comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** inference method (or comparison criterion)
- ▶ **result:** inference (point estimate, confidence interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** repeated sampling calibration

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea:** comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** inference method (or comparison criterion)
- ▶ **result:** inference (point estimate, confidence interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** repeated sampling calibration

**example:** fundamental problem of practical statistics

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea**: comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model**:  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: inference method (or comparison criterion)
- ▶ **result**: inference (point estimate, confidence interval/region)
- ▶ **properties**: repeated sampling calibration

**example**: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of repetition: e.g.,  $n$  **fixed** (binomial experiment)

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea**: comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model**:  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: inference method (or comparison criterion)
- ▶ **result**: inference (point estimate, confidence interval/region)
- ▶ **properties**: repeated sampling calibration

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of repetition: e.g.,  $n$  **fixed** (binomial experiment)
- ▶ choice of comparison criterion: e.g., **maximum** mean squared error

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea**: comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model**:  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: inference method (or comparison criterion)
- ▶ **result**: inference (point estimate, confidence interval/region)
- ▶ **properties**: repeated sampling calibration

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of repetition: e.g.,  $n$  **fixed** (binomial experiment)
- ▶ choice of comparison criterion: e.g., **maximum** mean squared error
- ▶ optimal inference method (minimax MSE estimator **of**  $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$ ) analytically

# classical approach

- ▶ **central idea**: comparison of inference methods on the basis of their repeated sampling performance (as a function of  $\theta$ )
- ▶ **model**:  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: inference method (or comparison criterion)
- ▶ **result**: inference (point estimate, confidence interval/region)
- ▶ **properties**: repeated sampling calibration

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of repetition: e.g.,  $n$  **fixed** (binomial experiment)
- ▶ choice of comparison criterion: e.g., **maximum** mean squared error
- ▶ optimal inference method (minimax MSE estimator **of**  $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$ ) analytically
- ▶ confidence interval for  $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$  is more **difficult**

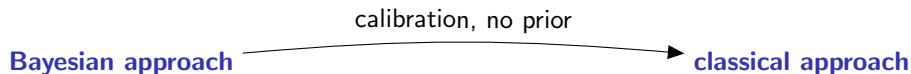


# comparison

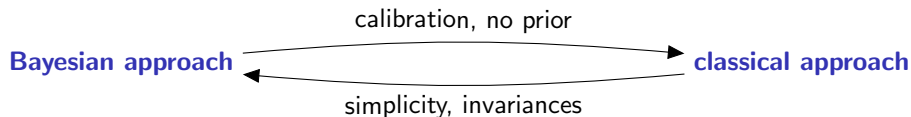
**Bayesian approach**

**classical approach**

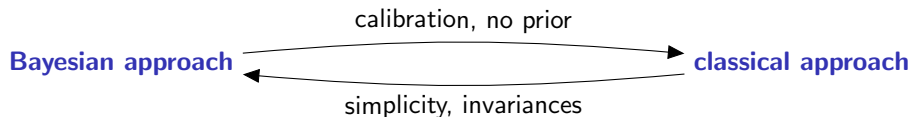
# comparison



# comparison



## comparison



## IP approach

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)
- ▶ **result:** posterior lower/upper prevision (point estimate?, credible interval/region?)



# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)
- ▶ **result:** posterior lower/upper prevision (point estimate?, credible interval/region?)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...)

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)
- ▶ **result:** posterior lower/upper prevision (point estimate?, credible interval/region?)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...)

**example:** fundamental problem of practical statistics

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)
- ▶ **result:** posterior lower/upper prevision (point estimate?, credible interval/region?)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of prior lower/upper prevision: e.g., IDM (set of **conjugate** priors)  
 $\theta \sim \{Beta(\alpha, \beta) : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \alpha + \beta = s\}$  with  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea**: uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model**:  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice**: prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)
- ▶ **result**: posterior lower/upper prevision (point estimate?, credible interval/region?)
- ▶ **properties**: invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of prior lower/upper prevision: e.g., IDM (set of **conjugate** priors)  
 $\theta \sim \{Beta(\alpha, \beta) : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \alpha + \beta = s\}$  with  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$
- ▶ choice of  $s$  is **difficult** (Walley: 2 or 1)

# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)
- ▶ **result:** posterior lower/upper prevision (point estimate?, credible interval/region?)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ choice of prior lower/upper prevision: e.g., IDM (set of **conjugate** priors)  
 $\theta \sim \{Beta(\alpha, \beta) : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \alpha + \beta = s\}$  with  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$
- ▶ choice of  $s$  is **difficult** (Walley: 2 or 1)
- ▶ **posterior** lower/upper prevision:  
 $\theta \sim \{Beta(\alpha + p, \beta + q) : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \alpha + \beta = s\}$

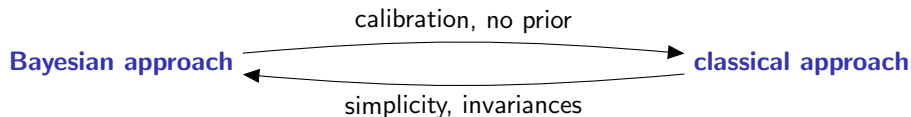
# IP approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a lower/upper prevision (with core  $\Gamma$ ) on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{\pi \times P_\theta : \pi \in \Gamma\}$  on  $\Theta \times \mathcal{X}$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** prior lower/upper prevision (in particular: amount of imprecision)
- ▶ **result:** posterior lower/upper prevision (point estimate?, credible interval/region?)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...)

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

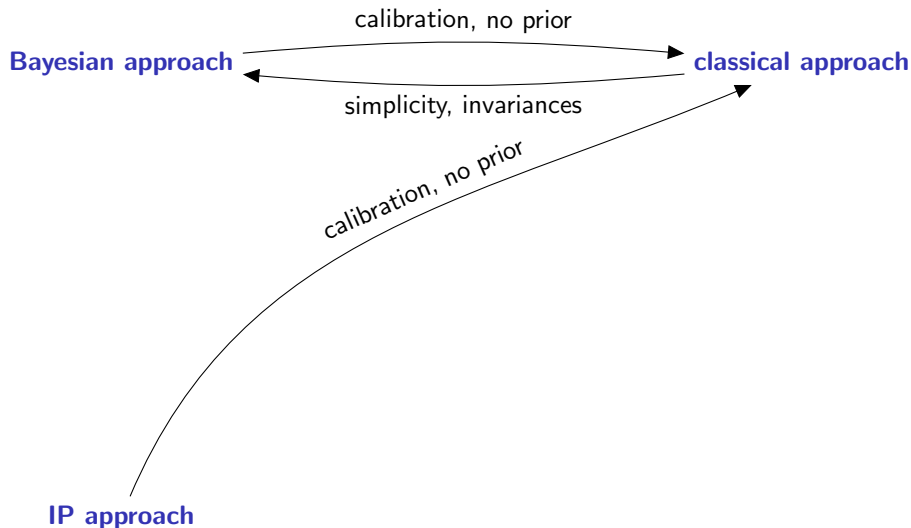
- ▶ choice of prior lower/upper prevision: e.g., IDM (set of **conjugate** priors)  
 $\theta \sim \{Beta(\alpha, \beta) : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \alpha + \beta = s\}$  with  $s \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$
- ▶ choice of  $s$  is **difficult** (Walley: 2 or 1)
- ▶ **posterior** lower/upper prevision:  
 $\theta \sim \{Beta(\alpha + p, \beta + q) : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \alpha + \beta = s\}$
- ▶ (imprecise) expectation **of**  $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$  analytically or numerically, but is neither a point estimate nor a confidence/credible interval

## comparison



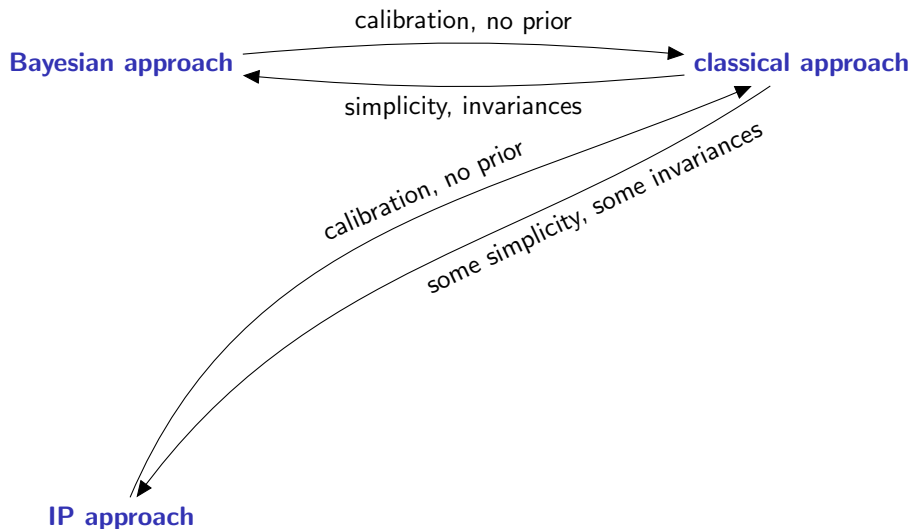
## IP approach

# comparison

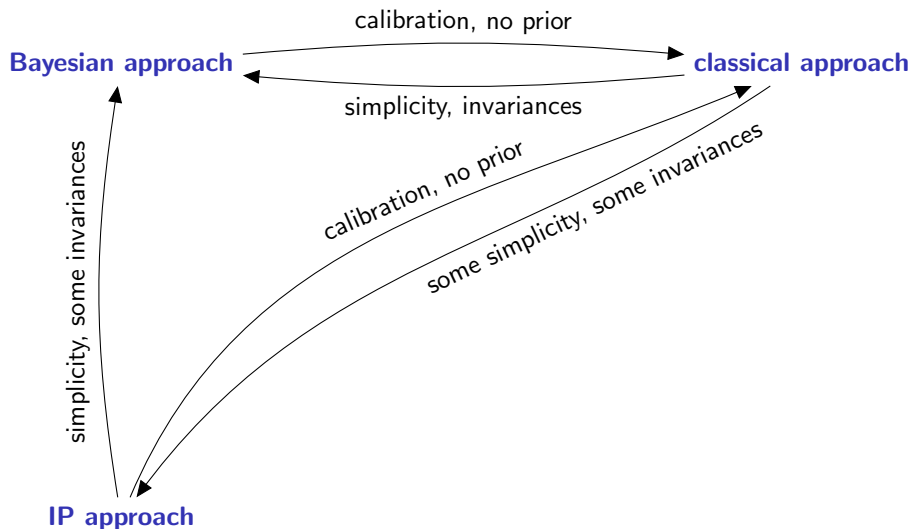




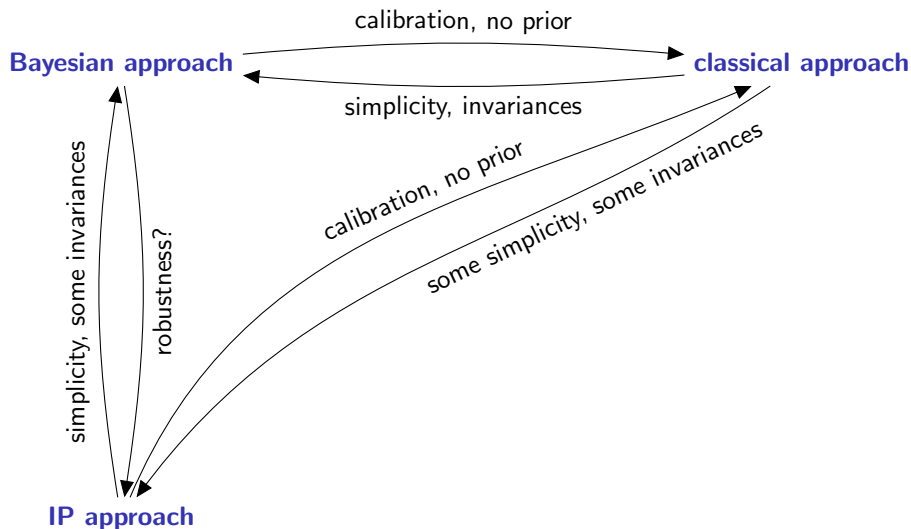
# comparison



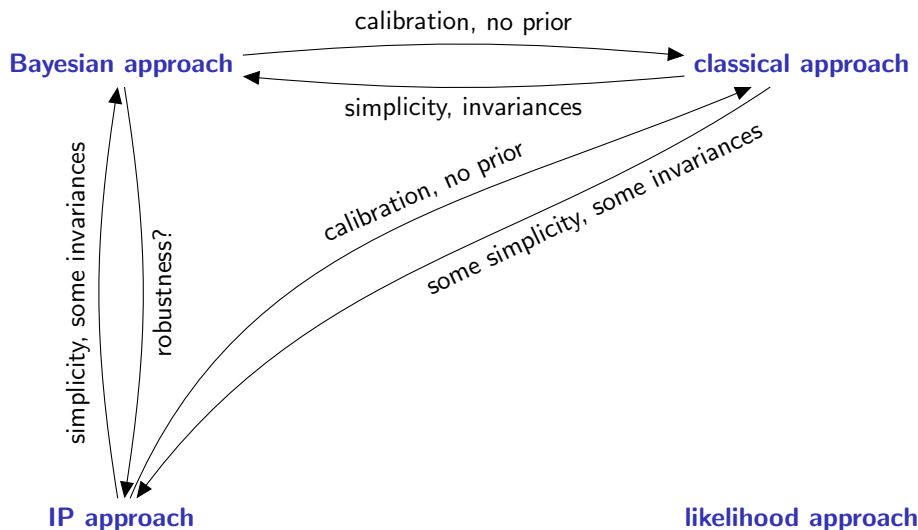
# comparison



# comparison



# comparison



# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea**: uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$

# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$

# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)

# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)
- ▶ **result:** (posterior) likelihood function (maximum likelihood estimate, likelihood interval/region)



# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)
- ▶ **result:** (posterior) likelihood function (maximum likelihood estimate, likelihood interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...), sometimes repeated sampling calibration

# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)
- ▶ **result:** (posterior) likelihood function (maximum likelihood estimate, likelihood interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...), sometimes repeated sampling calibration

**example:** fundamental problem of practical statistics

# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)
- ▶ **result:** (posterior) likelihood function (maximum likelihood estimate, likelihood interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...), sometimes repeated sampling calibration

**example:** fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ **no** choice necessary

# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)
- ▶ **result:** (posterior) likelihood function (maximum likelihood estimate, likelihood interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...), sometimes repeated sampling calibration

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ **no** choice necessary
- ▶ (posterior) **likelihood function:**  $lik(\theta) \propto \theta^p (1 - \theta)^q$

# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)
- ▶ **result:** (posterior) likelihood function (maximum likelihood estimate, likelihood interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...), sometimes repeated sampling calibration

## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ **no** choice necessary
- ▶ (posterior) **likelihood function:**  $lik(\theta) \propto \theta^p (1 - \theta)^q$
- ▶ maximum likelihood estimate and likelihood interval **for**  $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$  analytically or numerically

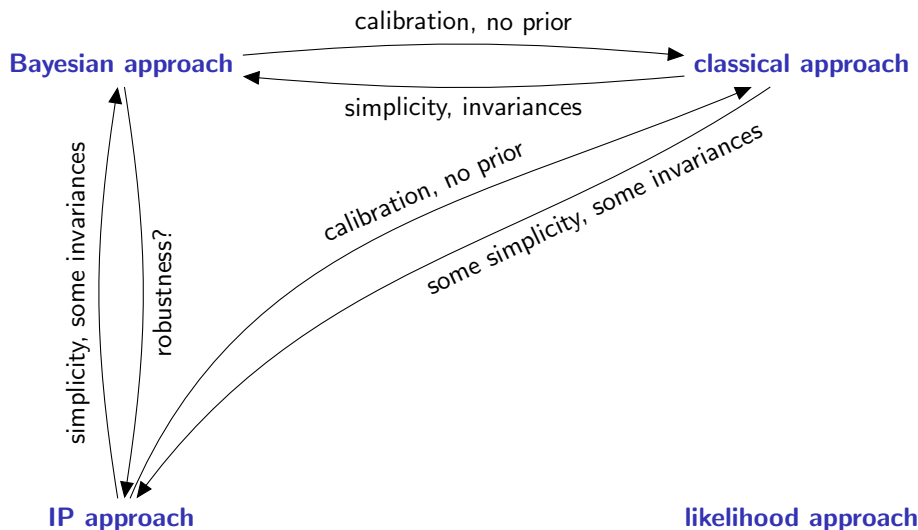
# likelihood approach

- ▶ **central idea:** uncertainty about  $\theta$  described by a likelihood function (possibility measure) *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **model:**  $\{P_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ , and *lik* on  $\Theta$
- ▶ **necessary choice:** (prior likelihood function)
- ▶ **result:** (posterior) likelihood function (maximum likelihood estimate, likelihood interval/region)
- ▶ **properties:** invariances (transformation, likelihood principle, ...), sometimes repeated sampling calibration

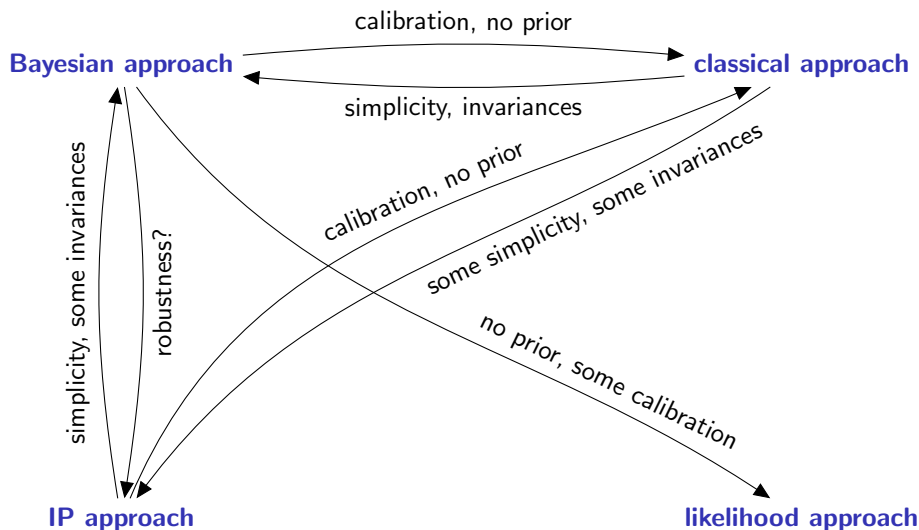
## example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ **no** choice necessary
- ▶ (posterior) **likelihood function:**  $lik(\theta) \propto \theta^p (1 - \theta)^q$
- ▶ maximum likelihood estimate and likelihood interval **for**  $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$  analytically or numerically
- ▶ repeated sampling calibration is easy (**regular** problem)

# comparison

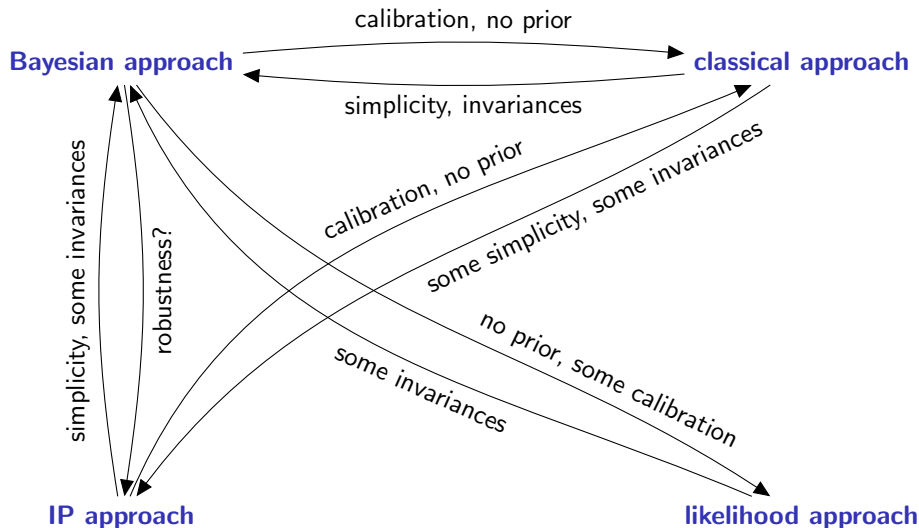


# comparison

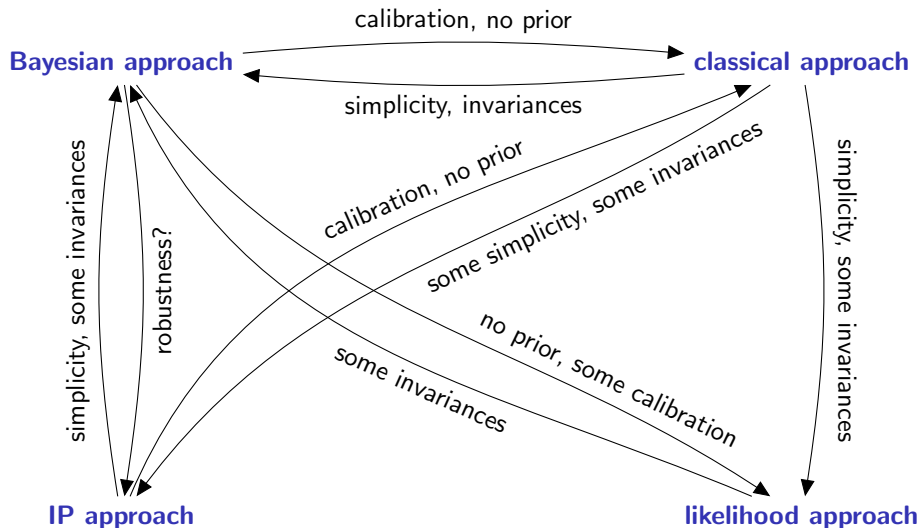




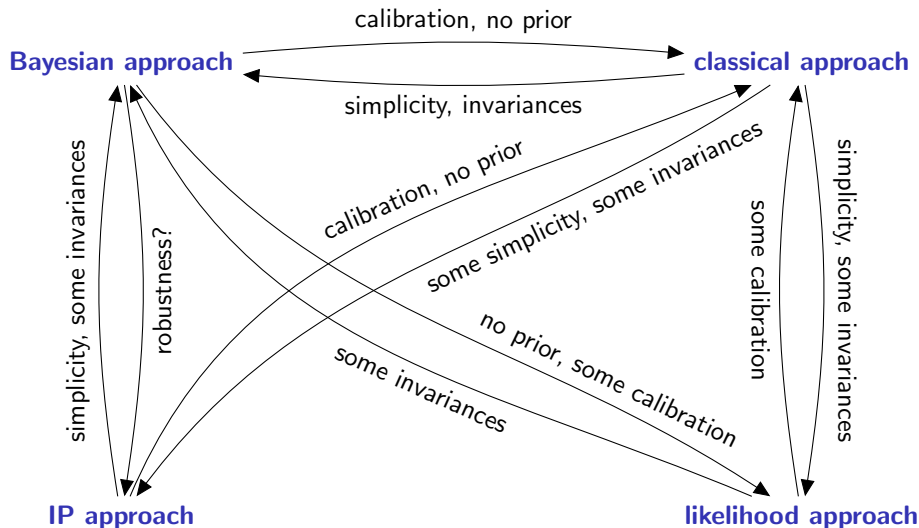
# comparison



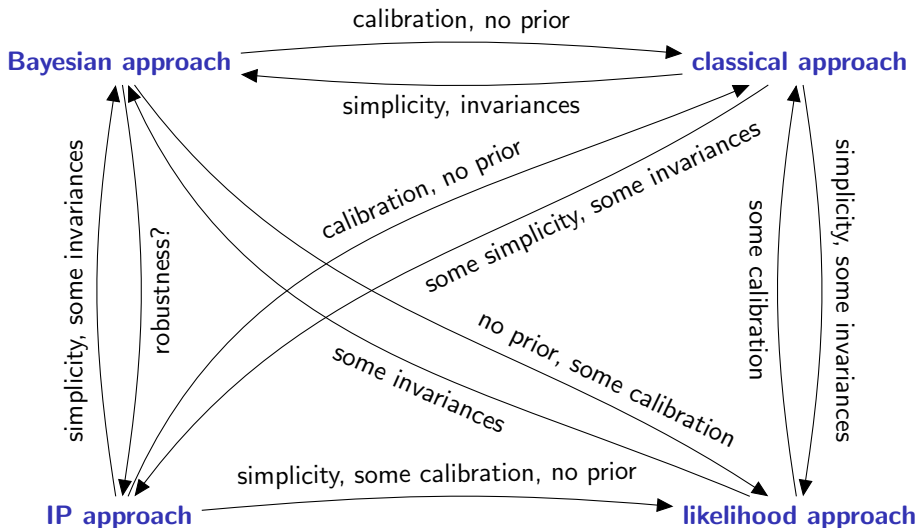
# comparison



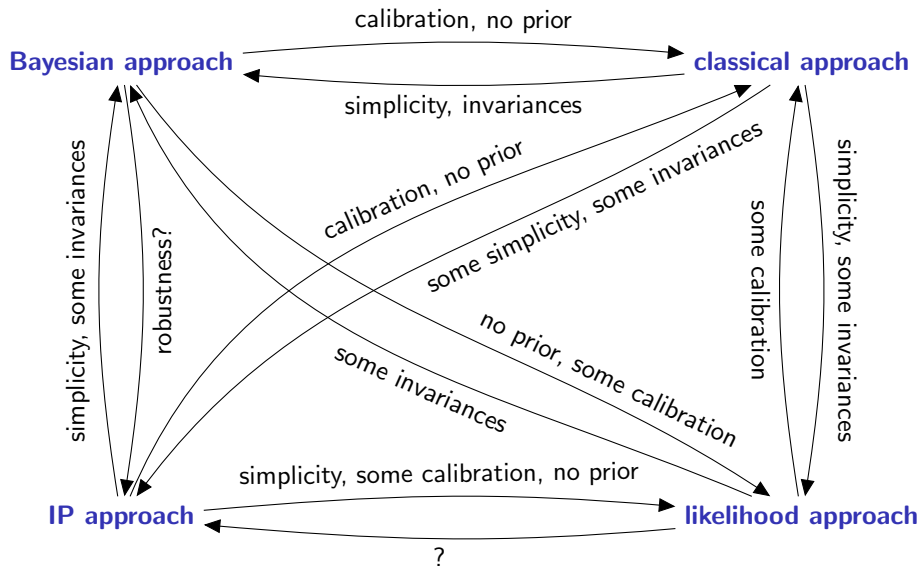
# comparison



# comparison



# comparison



# conclusion

- ▶ imprecise probabilities (**as** sets of probabilities) appear naturally in many statistical problems

# conclusion

- ▶ imprecise probabilities (**as** sets of probabilities) appear naturally in many statistical problems
- ▶ conventional approaches to statistics have advantages **and** disadvantages compared to each other

# conclusion

- ▶ imprecise probabilities (**as** sets of probabilities) appear naturally in many statistical problems
- ▶ conventional approaches to statistics have advantages **and** disadvantages compared to each other
- ▶ is there some good **reason** for preferring the IP approach (to statistics) to the Bayesian one?



# conclusion

- ▶ imprecise probabilities (**as** sets of probabilities) appear naturally in many statistical problems
- ▶ conventional approaches to statistics have advantages **and** disadvantages compared to each other
- ▶ is there some good **reason** for preferring the IP approach (to statistics) to the Bayesian one?
  - ▶ imprecise expectations are often **misinterpreted** as confidence/credible intervals

# conclusion

- ▶ imprecise probabilities (**as** sets of probabilities) appear naturally in many statistical problems
- ▶ conventional approaches to statistics have advantages **and** disadvantages compared to each other
- ▶ is there some good **reason** for preferring the IP approach (to statistics) to the Bayesian one?
  - ▶ imprecise expectations are often **misinterpreted** as confidence/credible intervals
  - ▶ choosing the amount of **imprecision** in prior lower/upper previsions is particularly difficult

# conclusion

- ▶ imprecise probabilities (**as** sets of probabilities) appear naturally in many statistical problems
- ▶ conventional approaches to statistics have advantages **and** disadvantages compared to each other
- ▶ is there some good **reason** for preferring the IP approach (to statistics) to the Bayesian one?
  - ▶ imprecise expectations are often **misinterpreted** as confidence/credible intervals
  - ▶ choosing the amount of **imprecision** in prior lower/upper previsions is particularly difficult
- ▶ the likelihood approach to statistics seems to be a better **compromise** between the Bayesian and classical ones