

Imprecise probability for statistical problems: is it worth the candle?

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26 November 2012

introduction

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- ▶ theoretical perspective **and** pragmatical perspective (application to the “fundamental problem of practical statistics”)

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- ▶ **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

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- ▶ expectation and credible interval **for** $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$ analytically or numerically

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- ▶ optimal inference method (minimax MSE estimator **of** $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$) analytically

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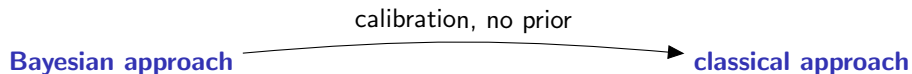
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- ▶ confidence interval for $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$ is more **difficult**

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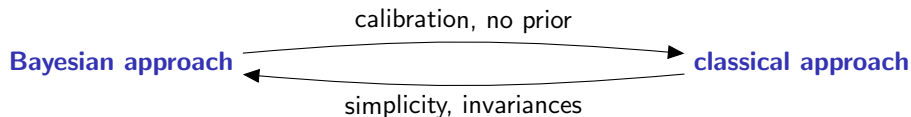
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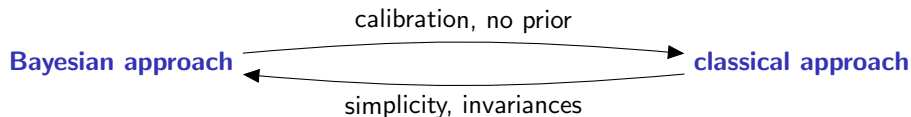
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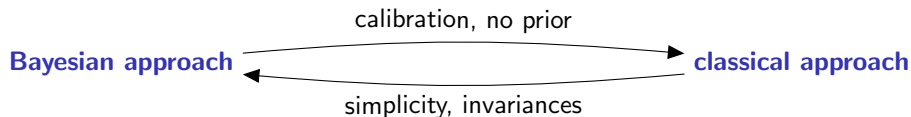
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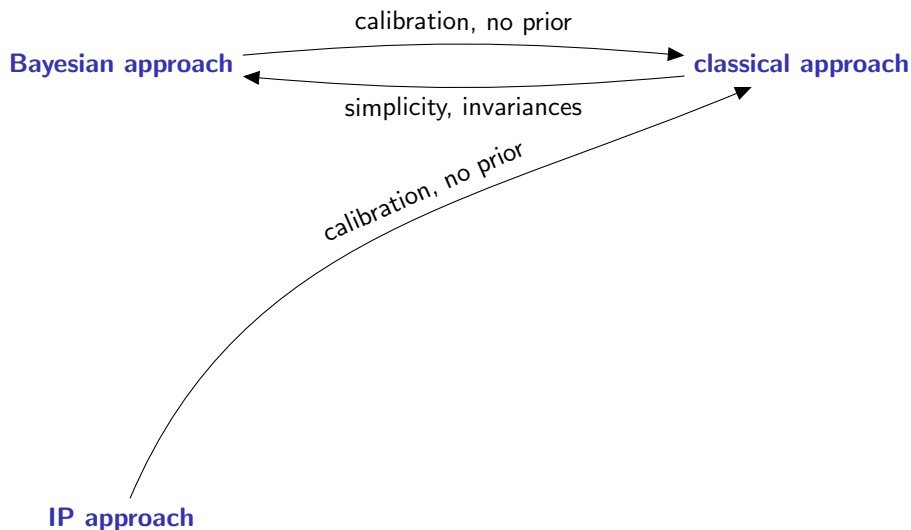
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- ▶ (imprecise) expectation **of** $\binom{r}{m} \theta^r (1 - \theta)^s$ analytically or numerically, but is neither a point estimate nor a confidence/credible interval

comparison

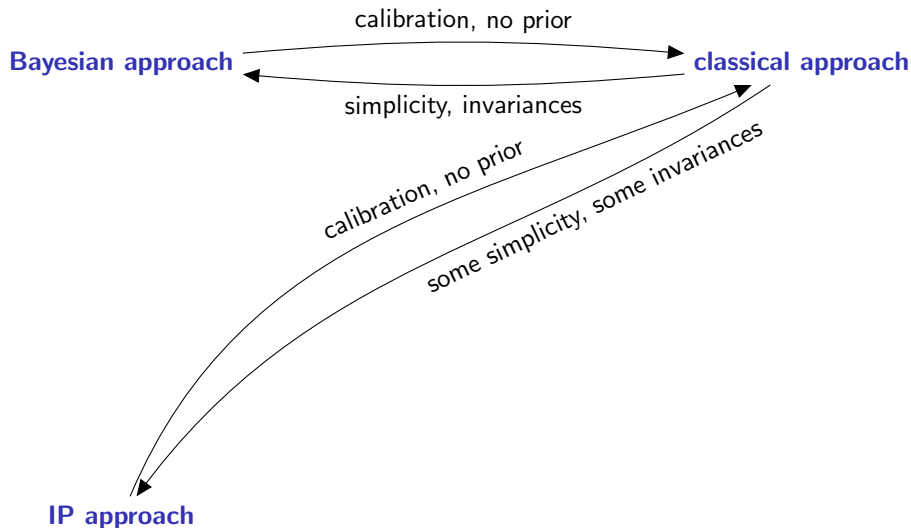


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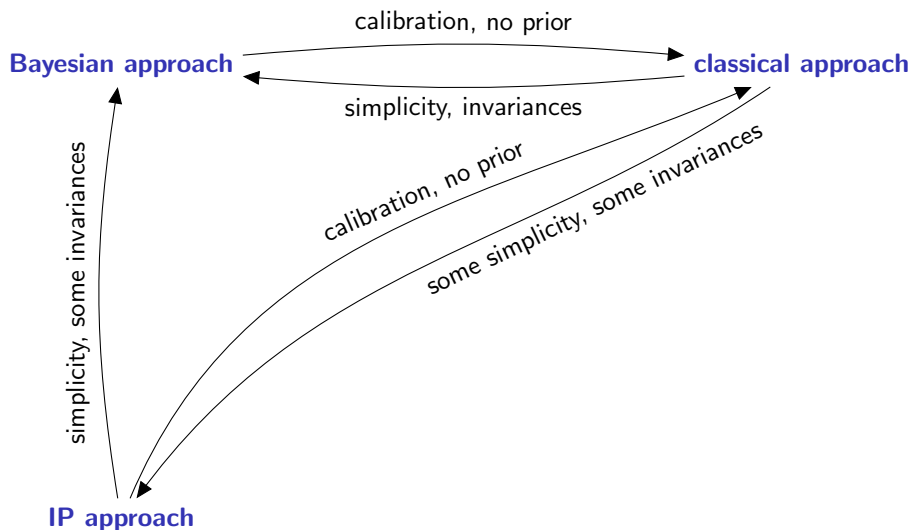
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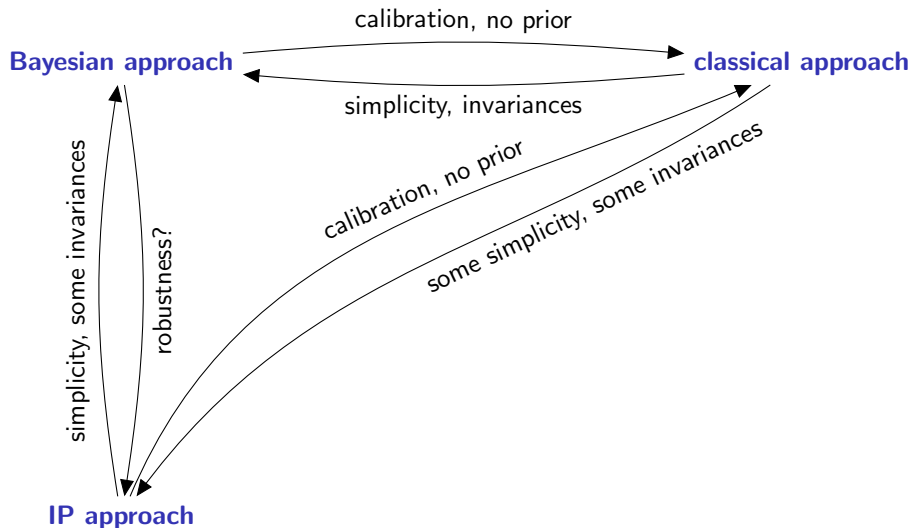
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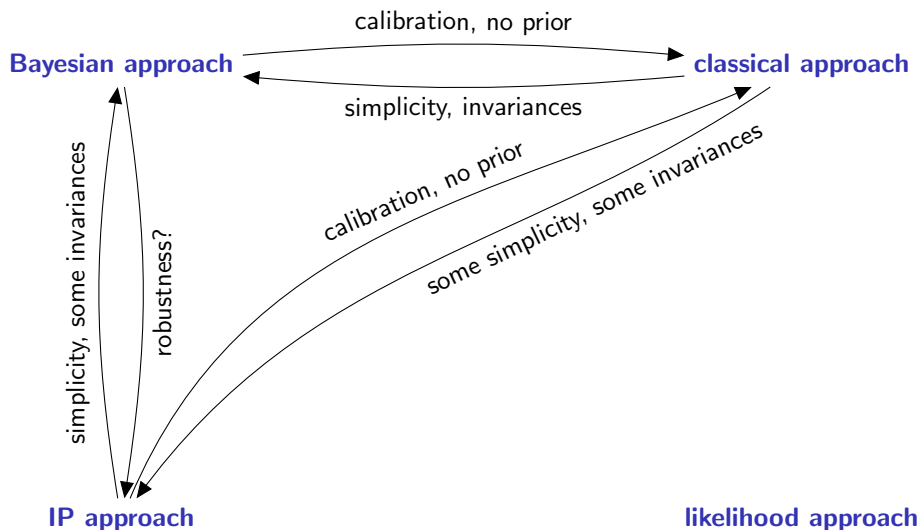
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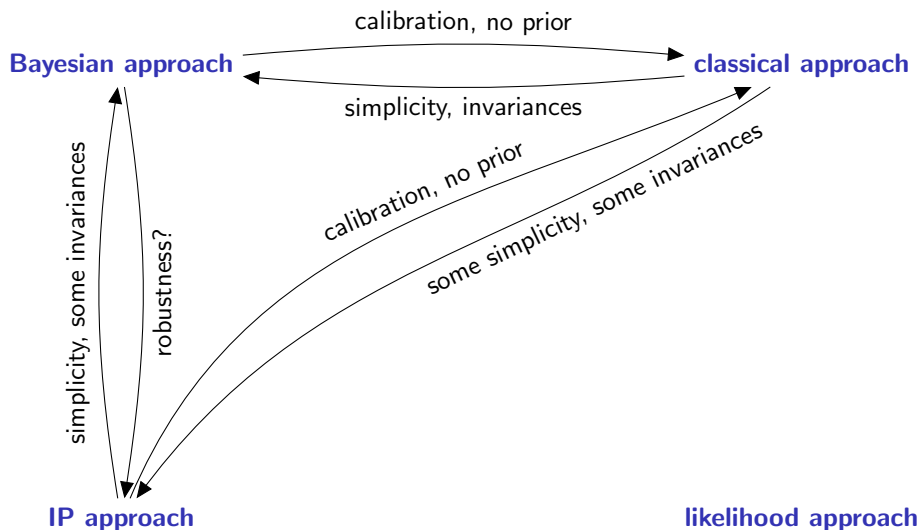
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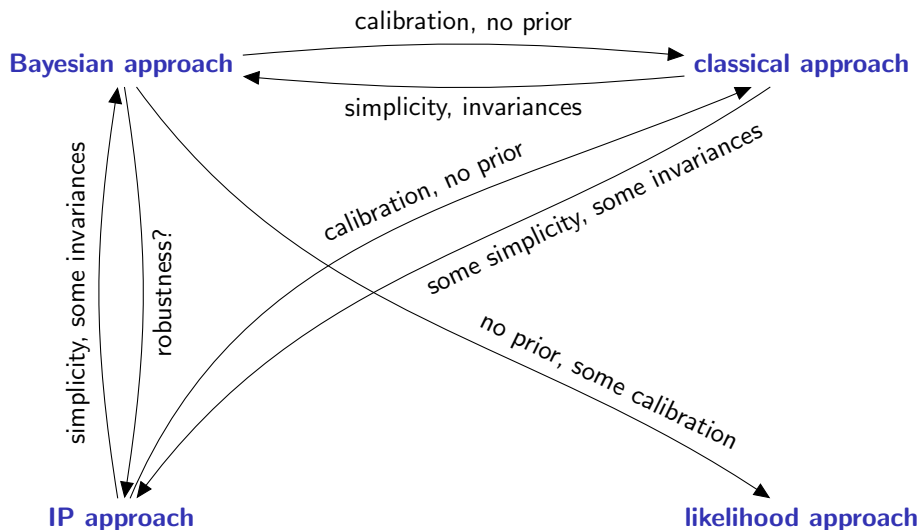
example: fundamental problem of practical statistics

- ▶ **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)

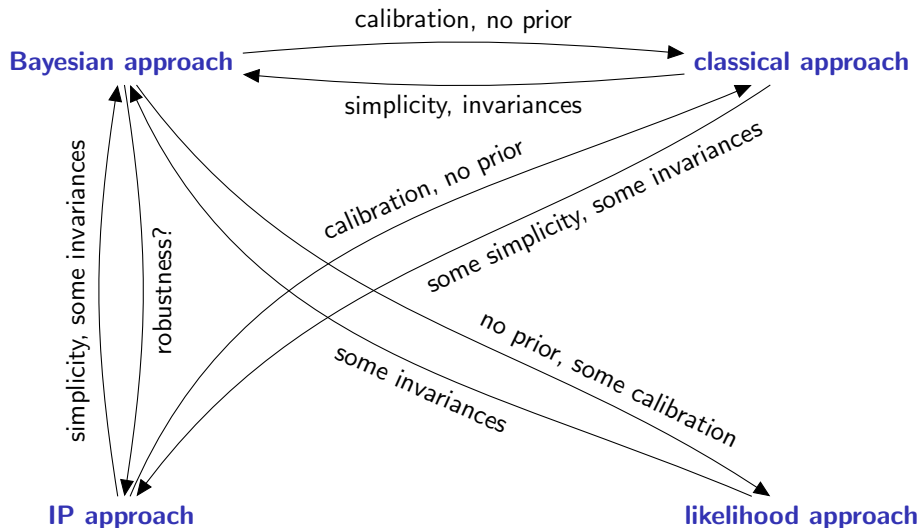
comparison



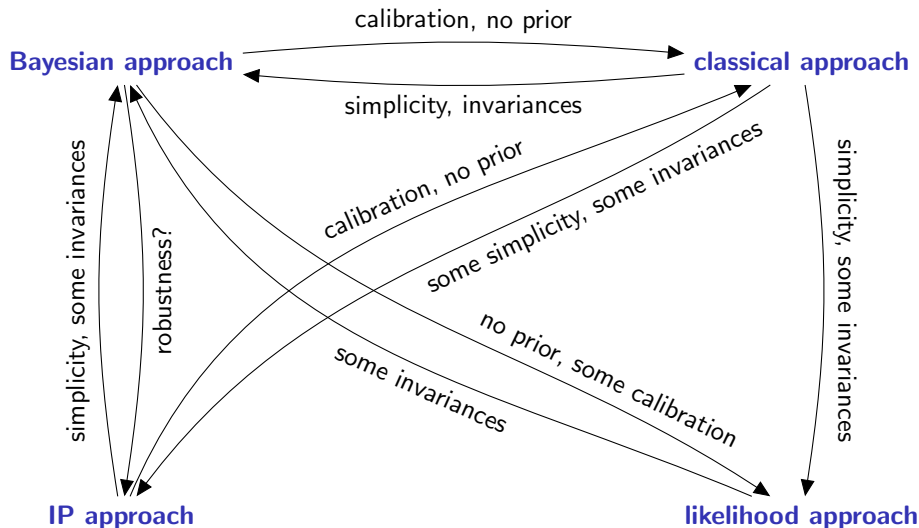
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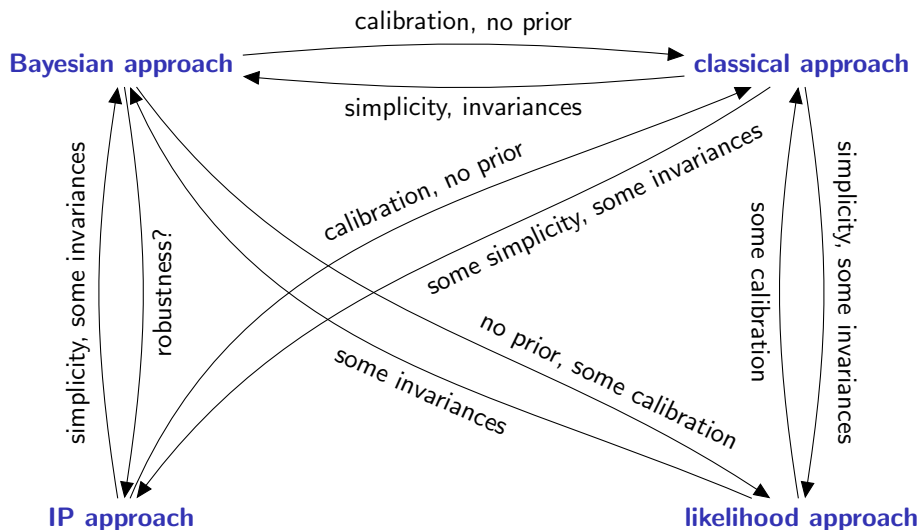
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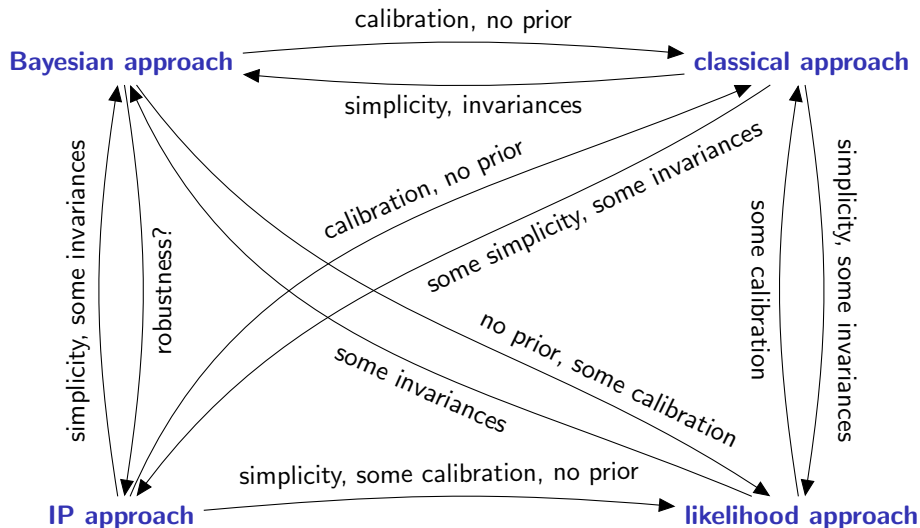
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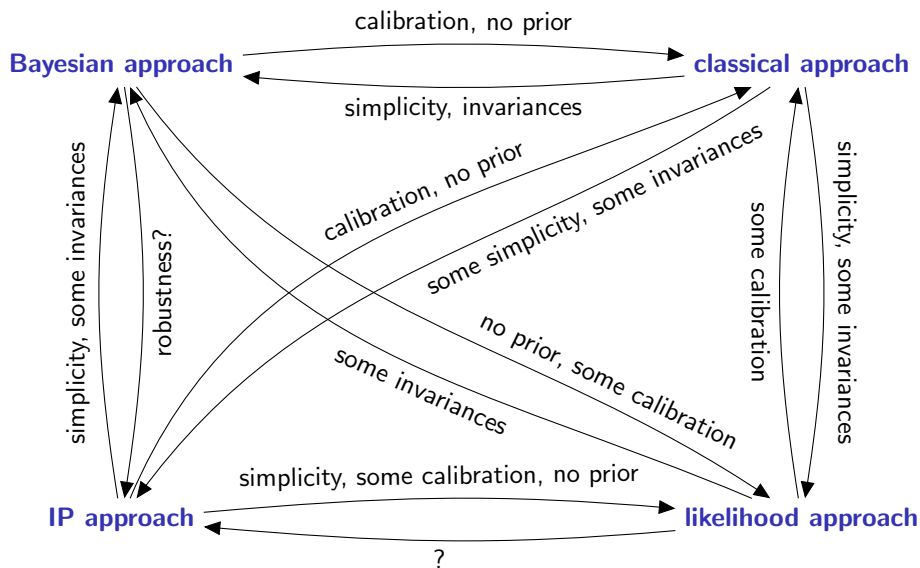
comparison



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- ▶ conventional approaches to statistics have advantages **and** disadvantages compared to each other
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 - ▶ 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