

# Homework 4

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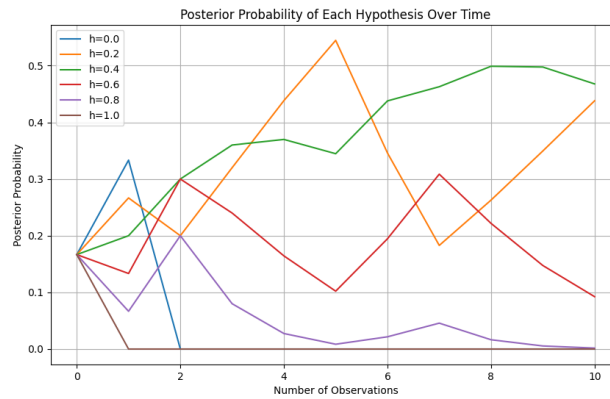
## Problem 1: Bayesian Learning

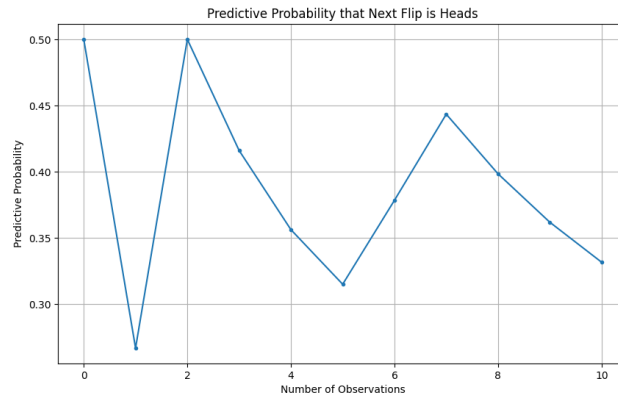
*Bayesian Learning calculates the probability of each hypothesis given the data, and makes predictions by weighing all hypothesis by their probabilities*

- Will assumed equal prior start for each hypothesis  $P(h_i) = \frac{1}{6}$  for all  $i$

### Observations

### Plots





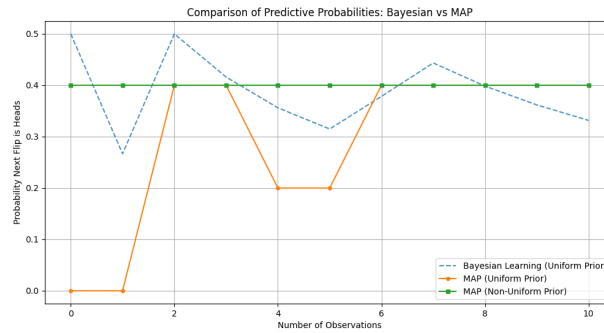
Most likely hypothesis after all observations:  $h=0.4$

### Insights

**The first plot: Posterior Probability plot:** the plot shows the evolution of the posterior probabilities over time for each hypothesis. At the start all hypotheses have the same prior however as the observation came in the posterior changes and having the likely of  $h=0.4$ .

**The second plot: Predictive Probability plot:** the second plot depicts the predictive probability that the next flip will be heads, calculated after each observation. The model fluctuates at first but it tends to stabilize around 0.4. The highest posterior probability influences the dominance of the hypothesis on predictions. The predictive probability tends to be stable around 0.4 since the posterior of  $h_3$  becomes quite large.

## Problem 2: Maximum a Posteriori (MAP) Estimation



### Results:

**MAP final prediction (Uniform Prior): 0.4000**

**MAP final prediction (Non-Uniform Prior): 0.4000**

### Observation and Insights

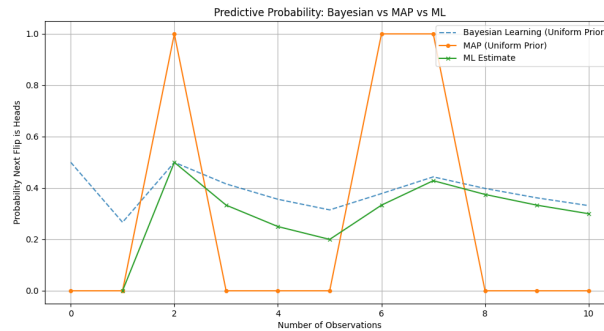
#### MAP vs Bayesian

- Smoothness: Bayesian with the blue dotted line smoothly converges to the true bias by averaging all hypotheses; however, the MAP prediction jumps discretely as the most probable hypothesis changes.

- Prior sensitivity: With the uniform prior MAP predictions start at 0 due to a limitation in tie-breaking but adjust faster as data comes in. While with a non-uniform prior, MAP initially predicts 0.4 and is constant for that.

Generally, the MAP is computationally efficient; however, it is prone to abrupt changes and prior bias, especially with limited data. It trades off accuracy for simplicity while Bayesian provides robust predictions by combining uncertainty but requires more computation.

### Problem 3: Maximum Likelihood (ML) Estimation



- Is the estimate equal to the estimates we found as a result of Bayesian Learning and MAP estimation? What is the major difference?
- Which is likely to be more accurate: the estimate found with ML estimation or the estimate found using the other methods?
- In what case (specifically, for what prior distribution) does MAP estimation reduce to the ML estimate? Feel free to consult Section 20.2 Learning with Complete Data in Russel & Norvig.
- Provide a brief discussion comparing Bayesian Learning, MAP, and ML estimation. What are the pros and cons of each?

#### Results

**Final ML estimate:** 0.3000

#### Discussion

- **Comparison with Bayesian Learning and MAP:** The ML estimate of 0.3000 differs from the Bayesian and MAP estimates of 0.4000. The major difference lies in the fact that ML estimation does not incorporate prior information, whereas Bayesian and MAP methods do.
- **Accuracy:** The accuracy of ML estimation depends on the amount of data available. With sufficient data, ML can be as accurate as Bayesian or MAP. However, with limited data, Bayesian and MAP are generally more accurate due to their use of prior information.

- **When MAP reduces to ML:** MAP estimation reduces to ML estimation when the prior distribution is uniform, as the prior does not influence the posterior in this case.
- **Comparison of Methods:**
  - **Bayesian Learning:** Provides robust predictions by combining prior knowledge and observed data. It is computationally intensive but handles uncertainty well.
  - **MAP Estimation:** Balances prior knowledge and observed data. It is computationally efficient but can be sensitive to the choice of prior.
  - **ML Estimation:** Relies solely on observed data, making it simple and computationally efficient. However, it may be less accurate with limited data or noisy observations.