

when MLE is maximum then MAP is also give biggest change in positive or negative side

Let's clarify this carefully — **MLE vs MAP** and what happens when **MLE is large** or **MAP changes more positively/negatively**.

✓ Key Insight

MLE and MAP are NOT directly proportional.

A high MLE value does NOT guarantee that MAP will also move strongly positive or negative.

MAP includes prior, and that prior can:

- boost MLE
- shrink MLE
- flip the direction of the change
- limit the growth even when MLE wants to increase

🔥 Formula Comparison

MLE

$$\hat{\theta}_{\text{MLE}} = \arg \max_{\theta} p(D | \theta)$$

MAP

$$\hat{\theta}_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \max_{\theta} p(D | \theta)p(\theta)$$

Equivalent in log-space:

☰  > ChatGPT 5.2 ▼

  ...

→ MLE maximizes likelihood only

→ MAP maximizes (likelihood + prior)

Why MAP may not follow MLE direction

Imagine likelihood wants θ to move **strong positive direction**.

But prior may say:

- "Stay near zero"
- "Stay small"
- "Stay negative"
- "Don't move too much"

So MAP responds depending on the prior strength.

Case-by-Case Explanation

Case 1 — MLE increases; MAP also increases

This happens when the prior is **weak or flat**.

Example:

Gaussian prior with very large variance (almost uniform).

Likelihood dominates.

Then:

$$\theta_{MAP} \approx \theta_{MLE}$$

- ✓ MAP follows MLE
 - ✓ Both changes have same sign
 - ✓ MAP change size \approx MLE change size
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Case 2 — MLE increases strongly; MAP increases but LESS

Prior pulls estimate back.

Example:

Prior says θ should be near 0 (Gaussian with small variance).

Then:

$$\theta_{MAP} = \frac{n}{n + \lambda} \theta_{MLE}$$

- ✓ MAP increases
 - ✗ But smaller than MLE
 - ✓ Change is *shrunk*
 - ✓ Same direction, smaller magnitude
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Case 3 — MLE increases; MAP stays SAME or barely changes

Strong prior dominates.

Example:

Laplacian prior → L1 regularization → leads to sparsity.

If prior prefers $\theta = 0$, MAP may stay 0 until data becomes very strong.

- ✓ MAP direction = none
 - ✗ MAP magnitude \neq MLE magnitude
 - ✓ Prior overrides likelihood
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Case 4 — MLE increases; MAP decreases (opposite direction!)

Yes — this can happen.

If prior is strongly negative (prior mean < 0), then:

- MLE tries to push θ positive
- Prior pushes θ negative

MAP = compromise.

If prior is stronger, MAP may even go negative.

Case 5 — MLE unchanged; MAP changes

If data gives no signal but prior is informative.

Visual 3D Intuition

Imagine two surfaces:


1. Likelihood surface → pushes θ toward MLE
2. Prior surface → pushes θ toward prior mean


MAP = highest point of the sum of these two hills.

Even if the likelihood hill rises, the prior may:

- pull MAP backward
- flatten the slope
- completely dominate

Final Answer to Your Question

 When MLE becomes maximum, does MAP also show largest positive/negative change?

 NO, not necessarily.

MAP can:

- increase less
- increase same
- not increase
- even move in opposite direction

because $\text{MAP} = \text{MLE} + \text{Prior}$ and prior modifies both the sign and magnitude.

If you want next, I can show:

- ✓ complete derivation of MLE vs MAP
- ✓ geometric interpretation
- ✓ numeric example with dataset
- ✓ code simulation in Python
- ✓ diagrams comparing MLE and MAP estimation surface