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Setting up your  
optimization problem

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Gradient Checking

# Gradient check for a neural network

Take  $W^{[1]}, b^{[1]}, \dots, W^{[L]}, b^{[L]}$  and reshape into a big vector  $\theta$ .

*Handwritten notes:*  
A bracket under  $W^{[1]}, b^{[1]}$  is labeled "concatenate".  
$$J(w^{[1]}, b^{[1]}, \dots, w^{[L]}, b^{[L]}) = J(\theta)$$

Take  $dW^{[1]}, db^{[1]}, \dots, dW^{[L]}, db^{[L]}$  and reshape into a big vector  $d\theta$ .

*Handwritten notes:*  
A bracket under  $dW^{[1]}, db^{[1]}$  is labeled "concatenate".

*Handwritten text:* Is  $d\theta$  the gradient of  $J(\theta)$ ?

# Gradient checking (Grad check)

$$J(\theta) = J(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots)$$

for each  $i$ :

$$\rightarrow \underline{d\theta_{\text{approx}}[i]} = \frac{J(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \overset{\downarrow}{\theta_i + \epsilon}, \dots) - J(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \overset{\downarrow}{\theta_i - \epsilon}, \dots)}{2\epsilon}$$

$$\approx \underline{d\theta[i]} = \frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_i}$$

$$d\theta_{\text{approx}} \approx d\theta$$

Checks

$$\frac{\|d\theta_{\text{approx}} - d\theta\|_2}{\|d\theta_{\text{approx}}\|_2 + \|d\theta\|_2}$$

$$\underline{\epsilon = 10^{-7}}$$

$$\approx \frac{10^{-7}}{10^{-5}} - \text{great!} \leftarrow$$

$$\rightarrow 10^{-3} - \text{worry.} \leftarrow$$



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Gradient Checking  
implementation notes

# Gradient checking implementation notes

- Don't use in training – only to debug

$$\frac{d\theta_{\text{approx}}[i]}{\uparrow \uparrow} \longleftrightarrow \frac{d\theta[i]}{\uparrow}$$

- If algorithm fails grad check, look at components to try to identify bug.

$$\underline{db^{[L]}} \quad \underline{dw^{[L]}}$$

- Remember regularization.

$$\underline{J(\theta)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i \ell(y^{(i)}, \hat{y}^{(i)}) + \frac{\lambda}{2m} \sum_l \|w^{[l]}\|_F^2$$

$d\theta = \text{gradient of } J \text{ wrt. } \theta$

- Doesn't work with dropout.

J

keep\_prob = 1.0

Since the cost function  $J()$  cannot be well-expressed

Better set keep\_prob=1, i.e. turn off dropout, then do gradient checking.

- Run at random initialization; perhaps again after some training.

$$\underline{w, b \approx 0}$$