

## ✓ Video: Backpropagation

Intuition

12 min

## Reading

**Random initialization: Symmetry breaking**

→ Initialize each  $\Theta_{ij}^{(l)}$  to a random value in  $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$   
(i.e.  $-\epsilon \leq \Theta_{ij}^{(l)} \leq \epsilon$ )

E.g.

→ **Theta1** = `rand(10,11)` \* (2\*INIT\_EPSILON) - INIT\_EPSILON; [ $-\epsilon, \epsilon$ ]

→ **Theta2** = `rand(1,11)` \* (2\*INIT\_EPSILON) - INIT\_EPSILON;

*Handwritten notes:*  
- Arrow from `rand(10,11)` to "Random 10x11 matrix (betw. 0 and 1)"  
- Arrow from `rand(1,11)` to "Random 1x11 matrix (betw. 0 and 1)"

Hence, we initialize each  $\Theta_{ij}^{(l)}$  to a random value between  $[-\epsilon, \epsilon]$ . Using the above formula guarantees that we get the desired bound. The same procedure applies to all the  $\Theta$ 's. Below is some working code you could use to experiment.

```
1 If the dimensions of Theta1 is 10x11, Theta2 is 10x11 and Theta3 is 1x11.  
2  
3 Theta1 = rand(10,11) * (2 * INIT_EPSILON) - INIT_EPSILON;  
4 Theta2 = rand(10,11) * (2 * INIT_EPSILON) - INIT_EPSILON;  
5 Theta3 = rand(1,11) * (2 * INIT_EPSILON) - INIT_EPSILON;  
6
```

`rand(x,y)` is just a function in octave that will initialize a matrix of random real numbers between 0 and 1.

(Note: the epsilon used above is unrelated to the epsilon from Gradient Checking)