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1. What is one-hot encoding? Why is this important and how do you implement it in keras?

a. One-hot encoding is a method used to represent categorical data in a format that is compatible with machine learning algorithms. It is important because many machine learning algorithms require the input data to be in a numerical format, and cannot handle data in the categorical format directly. You can implement one-hot encoding using the "to_categorical" function. Example of an implementation is as follows: "one_hot_labels = to_categorical(labels)". Essentially this function takes an array of integers and converts it to a "readable" matrix.

2. What is dropout and how does it help overfitting?

a. Dropout is a technique used to prevent overfitting (as hinted by the question). It works by randomly dropping out a certain number of output features of a layer during training. This reduces the inter-dependency of the remaining features and instead has the model you are training to learn new features. Again, this prevents overfitting because the model is not as reliant on a single feature.

3. How does ReLU differ from the sigmoid activation function?

a. ReLU is a very intuitive activation function. It takes all negative values and turns them into zero and the positive values stay the same. Not only does this help in comprehension to a degree but it also assists in improving the convergence of a model. The sigmoid activation function is a little bit more complex. All the values passed through are mapped to a value between 0 and 1 and the function itself if graphed represents a s-shaped curve.

4. Why is the softmax function necessary in the output layer?

a. The softmax function is used in the output layer of a neural network to map the output of the network to a probability distribution over the classes, which makes it easier to interpret and compare the output to the true labels.

5. What are the dimensions of the outputs of the convolution and max pooling layers?

a. The size of the convolution layer is 96 while the output dimension of the max pooling layer will be 48x48x16.

About the Model:

- This model was mostly created via trial and error. I would add and delete layers and change the value for the dropout and then measure the accuracy of the model. If I thought that I was going somewhere with a specific layout, I would keep that layout and then make small tweaks. I continued to do this until I got to around an average of a 91-92% accuracy rate.