Coordinates in Rebinned Images

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This note describes the change of pixel coordinates when an image is rebinned to lower resolution by some integer factor M.

Suppose we have an image \mathcal{I} , of $MN_x \times MN_y$ pixels, where M is an integer. The coordinates in \mathcal{I} are $\mathbf{r} = (x, y)$, which denote zero offset indices for image pixels. The *center* of the lower left-hand pixel is at (0,0), and the center of the upper right-hand pixel is at $(MN_x - 1, MN_y - 1)$.

Now rebin the image to size $N_x \times N_y$, forming image \mathcal{I}' , with its pixel coordinates \mathbf{r}' . The center of the lower left-hand pixel in \mathcal{I}' is at $\mathbf{r}' = (0,0)$, and the upper right-hand pixel is at $(N_x - 1, N_y - 1)$. However, these do not correspond to the lower left and upper right pixels of the original image \mathcal{I} . The figure shows image coordinates for several example points. Note how rebinning has moved the origin. Integer coordinates in \mathcal{I}' do not, in general, correspond to integer coordinates in \mathcal{I} . The two points at the corners (in black) are easy to work out. From these, it can be shown that

$$\mathbf{r} = M\mathbf{r}' + \frac{M}{2} - \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{r}' = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{M} + \frac{1}{2M} - \frac{1}{2}.$$

