



Nested Craters

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Impact craters that are only a few kilometers in size on Mars usually have simple bowl shaped interiors with craters in weaker material being larger than craters in stronger material. Occasionally though, nature is more complicated and these simple rules don't apply. One such case is shown here where it appears as if there are craters nested within each other. We can use craters like this to tell us something about what lies below the surface. What could be causing the change in strength in the subsurface?

The HIRISE camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is the most powerful one of its kind ever sent to another planet. Its high resolution allows us to see Mars like never before, and helps other missions choose a safe spot to land for future exploration. Thousands of images are available online at: uahirise.org.