



# Topography of a Flood Carved Channel

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This image is part of a stereo pair that allows one to look at the walls of a flood carved channel in 3D. By examining the walls in such detail, we hope to understand the process by which the channel was carved. For example, in this location, there are a series of benches or terraces high up on the channel wall. By looking at the topography it should be possible to tell if (1) these are produced by sediments being left at these elevations, (2) the erosive fluid dropped in stages and thus did more erosion at certain levels, or (3) the wall of the channel was slumping inward as a series of landslides.

*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](http://uahirise.org).*