



Slope Streak Details and a New Streak

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Slope streaks are small, dark (occasionally bright) marks visible in many dusty areas on Mars. Some people have proposed that they are the traces of liquid water, but most scientists think that they form when very thin layers of fine dust is disturbed and slides downhill. Since this is what we call a monitoring image, we can also compare it with past images of the same spot. In this case, at least one new slope streak has formed in the last five years! Studying repeated images of the same spot like this can tell us how often new streaks form, how old streaks are, and how they brighten over time.

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.