



# What Is This?

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What are we looking at here? There are long linear ridges or elevated terrains covered by regular patterns of dark spots. Viewed at full resolution, we can see that the surface is covered by ripples and that some of the dark spots have bright halos around them. Give up? These are sand dunes covered by carbon dioxide frost as seen in late winter when the carbon dioxide is starting to sublime (change from solid to vapor). However, the way this sublimation happens is quite complex, leading to the spots, fans, streaks and so forth described in previous HiRISE image captions.

*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).*