



# Seasonal Erosion

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Bright carbon dioxide frost (or, dry ice) highlights this network of channels carved into the surface. The channels are eroded a little bit every spring when the seasonal polar cap, composed of dry ice, sublimates (meaning going directly from a solid to gas) at the ice-surface interface. The erosion occurs under the seasonal ice layer: when trapped pressurized gas finds an escape route it carries along loose surface material. This surface material is blown downwind and deposited in dark fans on top of the seasonal ice layer.

*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).*