



Finding Faults in Melas Chasma

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There are actually three faults in this image. The two trench-like features are called "graben" and are caused when the surface stretches apart and blocks of rock drop downwards. The third fault is the wavy ridge that cuts across both of the graben. This type of fault is sometimes called a "wrinkle ridge" and occurs when surface rocks are compressed causing one block of rock to be thrust up on top of another. So this area has been both stretched in the north-south direction and squeezed in the east-west direction.

