Red sand, Blue sand

- Pristine and wheel-disturbed sands in the Bagnold Dune area in Gale Crater vary in their visible/near-infrared colors as observed by the Mars Science Laboratory *Curiosity* rover.

- Red sands on the eastern margin of Nathan Bridges Dune are dominated by fine-grained, oxidized iron-bearing crystals (hematite) and amorphous (non-crystalline) materials, likely contaminated by fragments of nearby bedrock.

- Darker, coarser-grained “blue” sands contain primary minerals (olivine, pyroxene) with less oxidation, and are often sorted by grain size after disturbance from rover wheels.

The color of sand on Mars’ dunes depends on grain size, composition, and oxidation state.