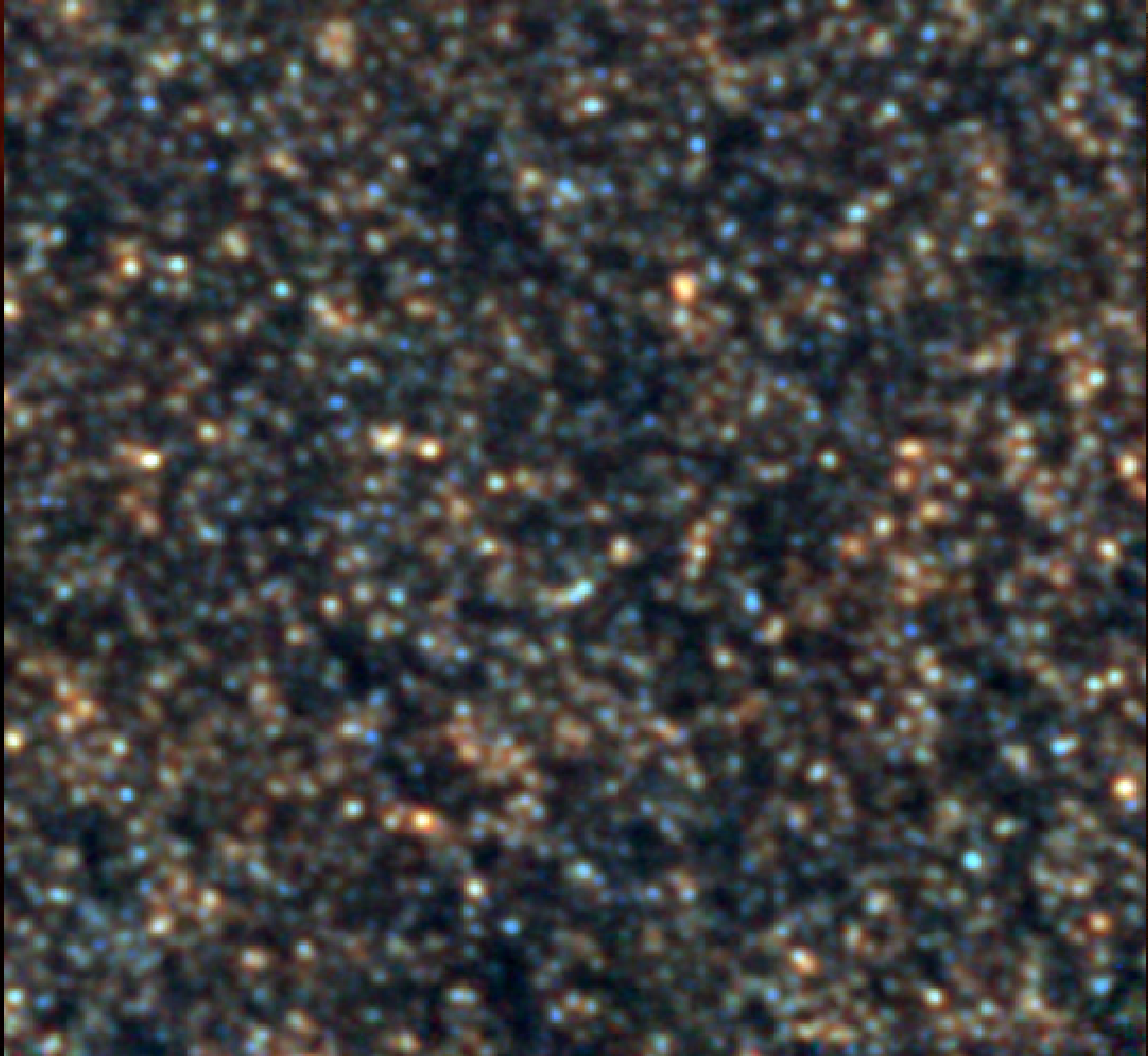


Herschel Space Observatory

Galaxies Near and Far



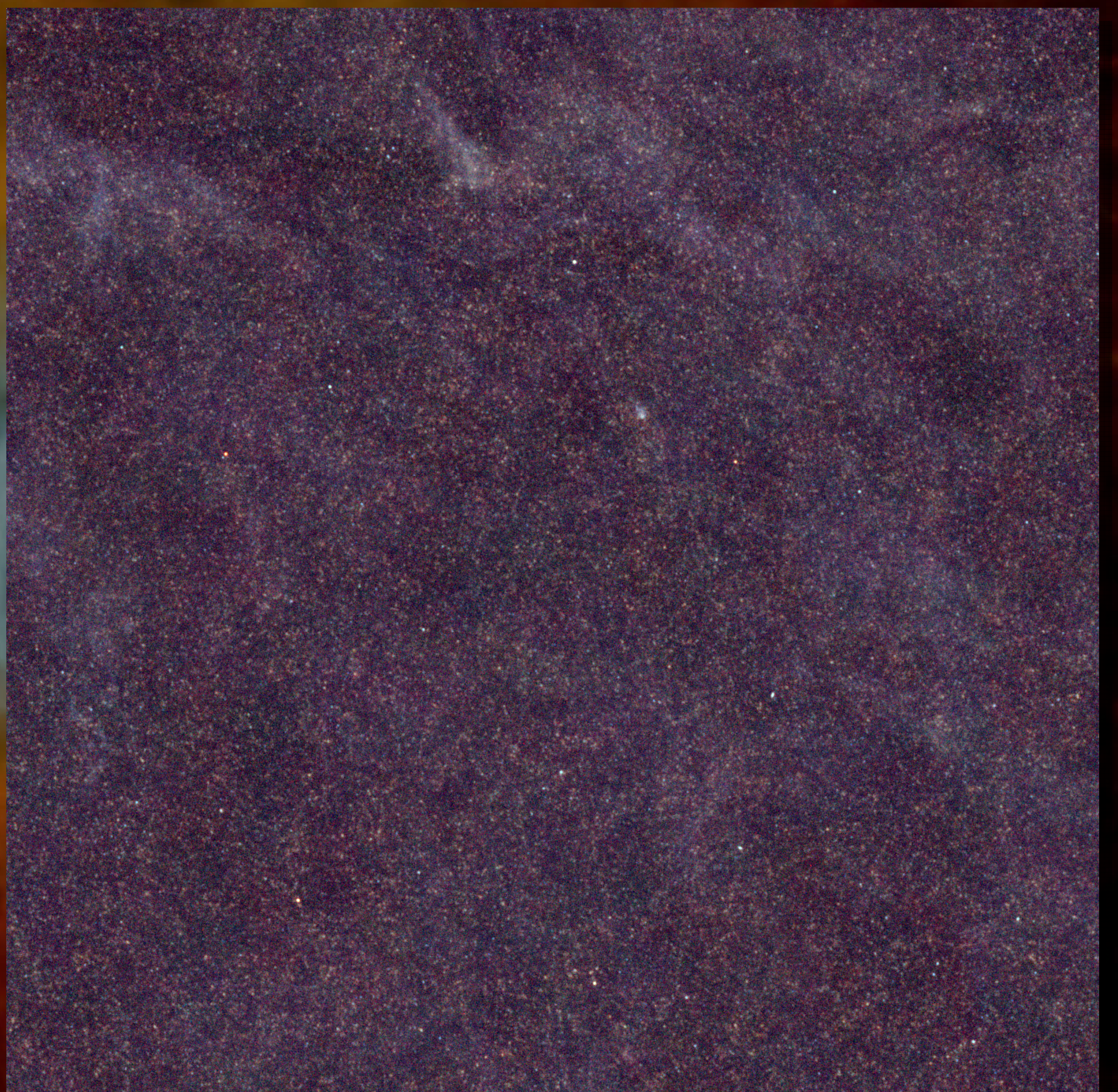
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This three-colour image taken by SPIRE shows thousands of very distant galaxies in an area of the sky a little smaller than the Full Moon. The colour of each galaxy depends on its temperature and how far away it is. The light left some of the galaxies billions of years ago, when the Universe was a fraction of its current age.

By surveying large areas of sky, Herschel should eventually find more than half a million distant galaxies.

The image on the right, taken with SPIRE at 250 μm , shows a large patch of sky over 60 times the size of the Full Moon, containing around 10,000 distant galaxies, each one just a small dot. The faint, wispy structure near the top of the image is dust within our own Galaxy.

Images like this are providing information about galaxies in the early Universe, and even about the structure of the Universe as a whole.



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