

Herschel Space Observatory

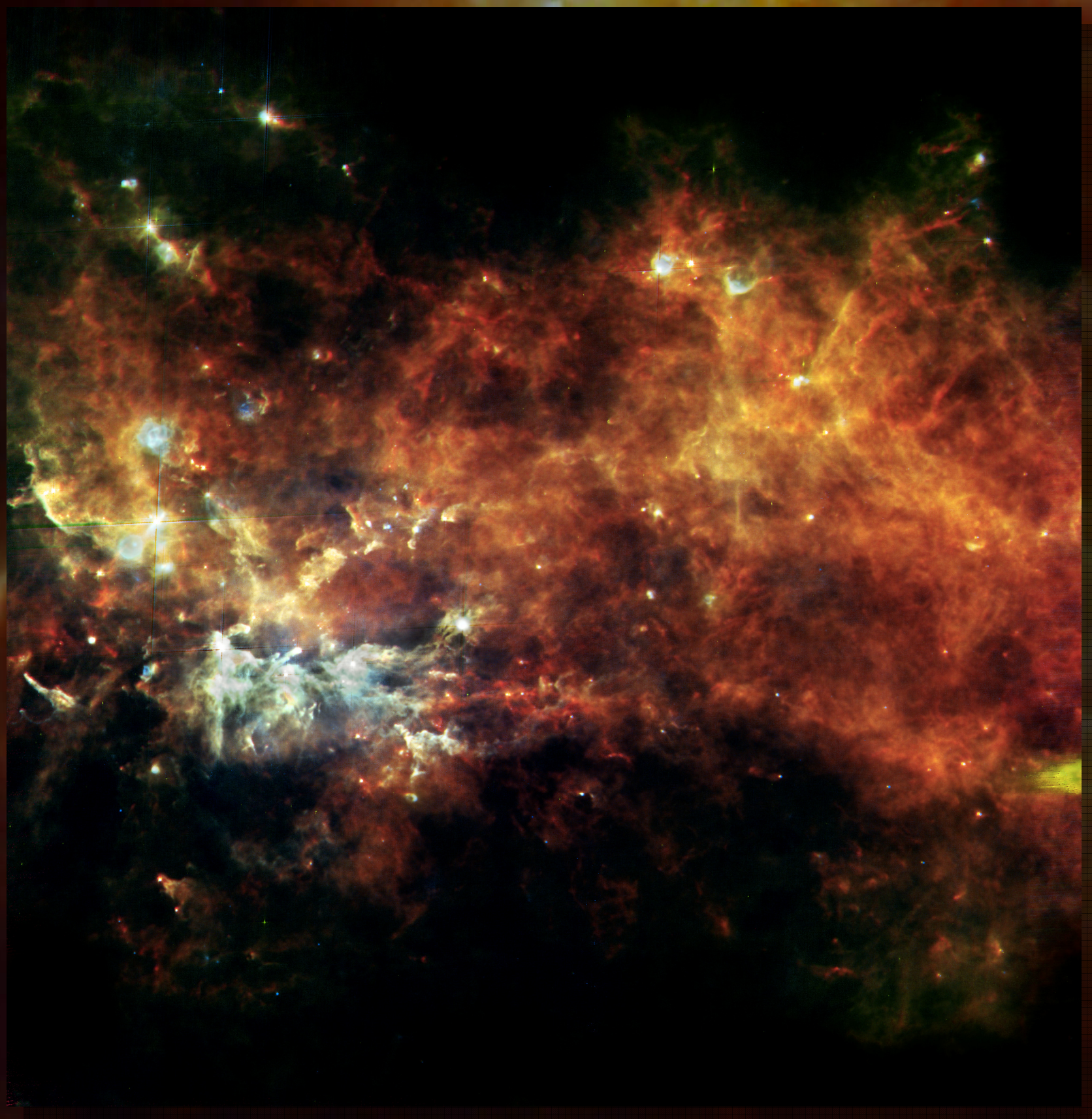
Dust and Star Formation in the Milky Way



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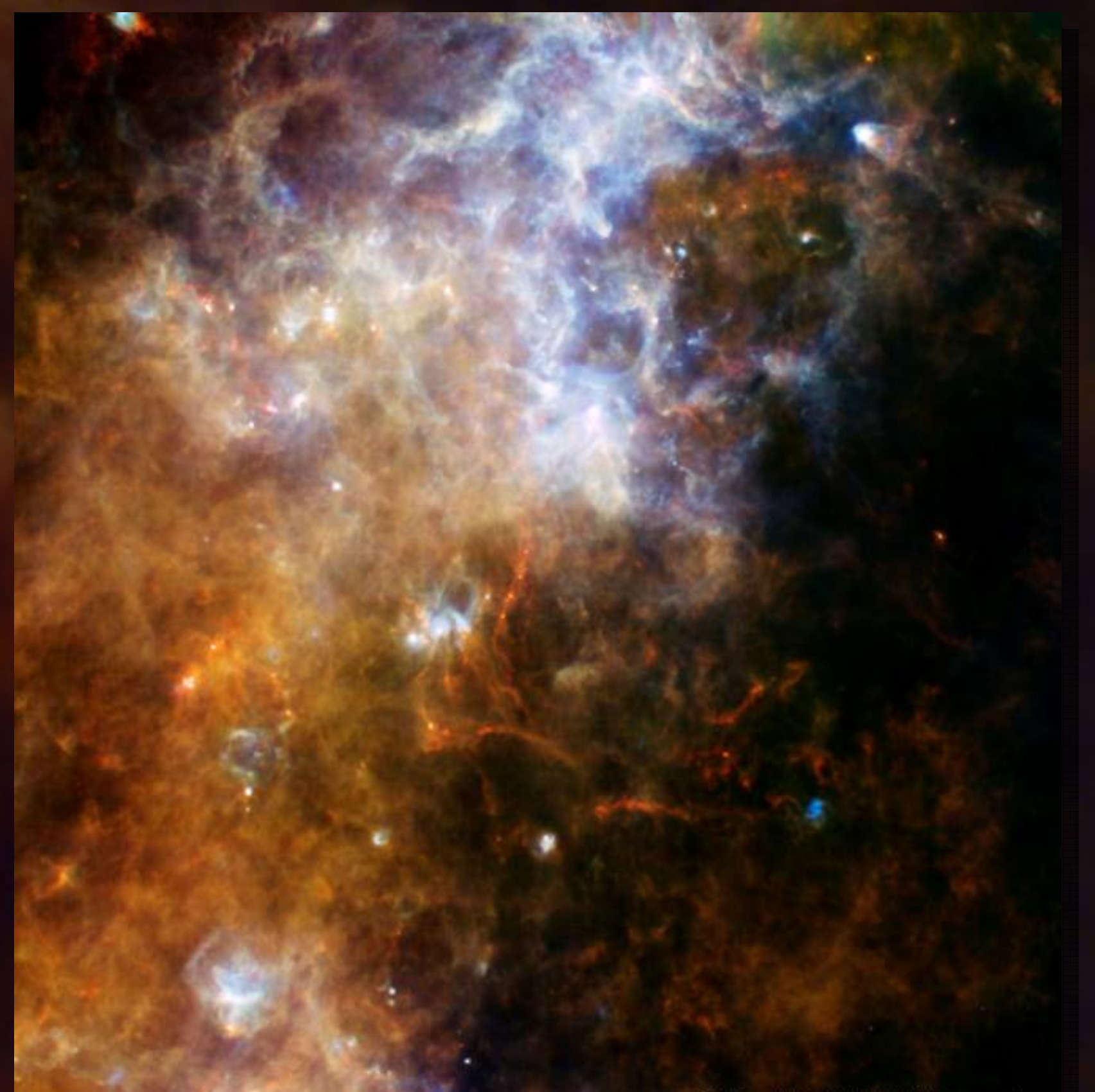
By observing in the infrared over a wide wavelength range, Herschel can observe dust in our own Galaxy. These multi-colour images, taken with the SPIRE and PACS instruments, show colder dust in red and warmer dust in blue.

The warm dust is being heated by young stars within the clouds. The brighter regions are denser, and will go on to form new generations of stars. These stars will produce more dust when they die, leading to further cycles of star formation.



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These images show regions in the plane of our Galaxy, towards the constellations of Vulpecular (left), Aquila (above) and the Southern Cross (below).



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Herschel will make a map of the dust in the plane of our Galaxy, as well as looking at the regions of dust around a large number of regions where stars are forming.