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An optical image mosaic of the Milky Way galaxy shows a view looking toward the Galactic Center. The smooth band of starlight is occluded by dark clouds of interstellar dust, which absorbs and scatters background light (extinction), causing distant stars to appear fainter and redder. Variations in the properties



of this dust extinction have been mapped in three dimensions using 130 million stellar spectra. See page 1209. Credit: ESO/Serge Brunier, CC BY 4.0 (https:// creativecommons.org/ licenses/by/4.0/)

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