



SNR 0454-67.2

A mixture of dark, dusty clouds and red threads of gas form cosmic object SNR 0454-67.2. It is a supernova remnant, created from the cast-off material of a star that reached a critical mass and exploded. The star that created SNR 0454-67.2 was a white dwarf, a type of star that has fused all of its hydrogen and remains as a dense stellar core.

Since white dwarfs explode and dim in a predictable way – a blast called a type Ia supernova – astronomers can chart their dimming over time to measure cosmic distances. This predictability gives type Ia supernovae the nickname of “standard candles.” SNR 0454-67.2 is located in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way about 160,000 light-years away.

Hubble Space Telescope – Wide Field Camera 3
NASA and ESA