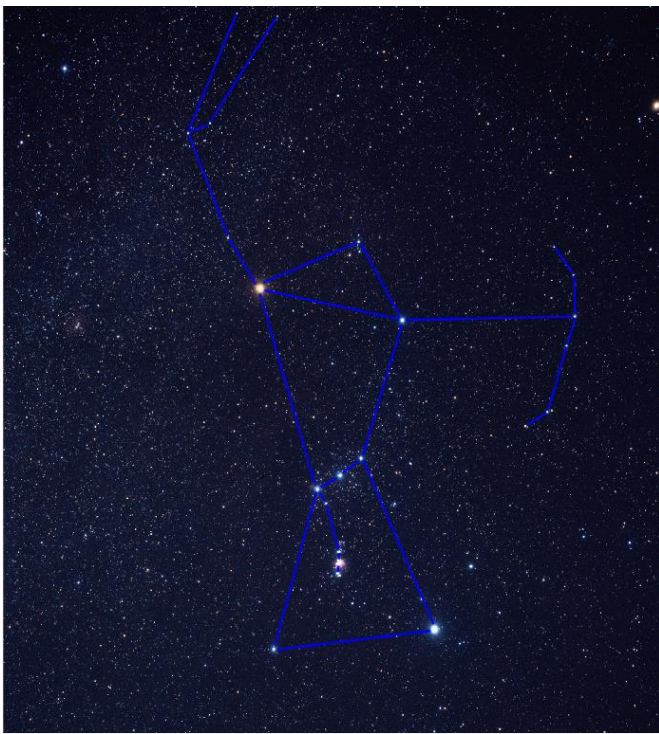
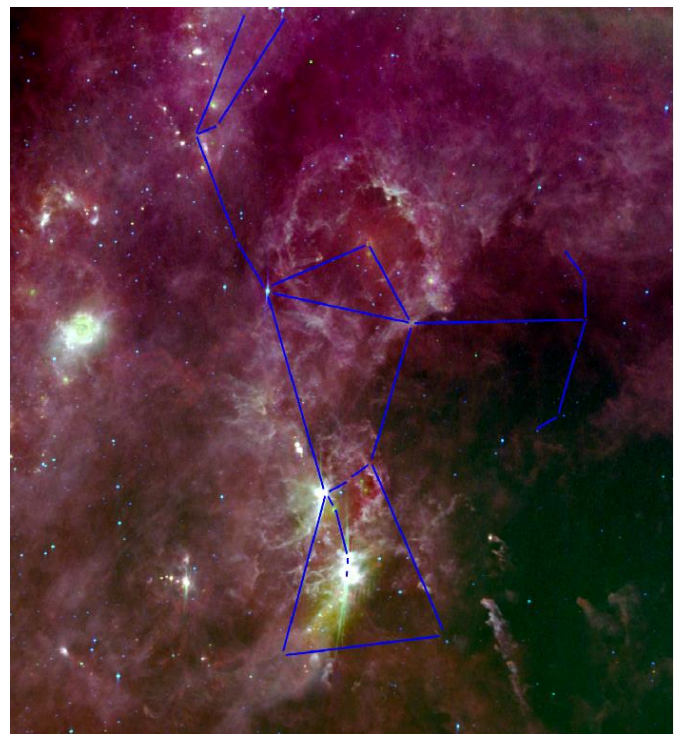


Charles Townes and Infrared Astronomy

After working at Bell Labs, Columbia, and MIT primarily on molecular spectroscopy and quantum electronics, Prof. Townes came to Berkeley in the mid-60's to take on a new line of research: infrared astronomy. He believed that this field could benefit from new and emerging technology and instrumentation, that the infrared sky could reveal new and exciting discoveries. The pictures of the constellation Orion below—created by satellites with even newer technologies—illustrate the appeal of piercing the clouds of this relatively unexplored wavelength.



Visible sky



Infrared Sky

The bright star in Orion's shoulder is Betelgeuse (Alp Ori), which was much studied by Prof. Townes and his students.