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Perseus Cluster: A galaxy cluster located about 250 million light years from Earth. (Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXO/Oxford University/J. Conlon et al. Radio: NRAO/AUI/NSF/Univ. of Montreal/Gendron-Marsolais et al. Optical: NASA/ESA/IoA/A. Fabian et al.; DSS)

Caption: An innovative interpretation of X-ray data from Chandra, XMM-Newton, and Hitomi of the Perseus and other galaxy clusters could help scientists understand the nature of dark matter. This image contains X-ray data from Chandra (blue) of the Perseus galaxy cluster, which has been combined with Hubble optical data (pink) and radio emission from the Very Large Array (red). If confirmed with future observations, this result may represent a major step forward in understanding the nature of the mysterious, invisible substance that makes up about 85% of matter in the universe.

Scale: Image is 3.87 arcmin across

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory