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Abell 521: A galaxy cluster located about 2.9 billion light years from Earth. (Credit: X-ray (NASA/CXC/INAF/G.Brunetti et al.); Radio (NRAO/NSF/INAF/G.Brunetti et al.))

Caption: A composite image of X-ray data from Chandra (colored blue) and radio emission from the Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (orange) of Abell 521 is shown here. The elongated shape of the X-ray emission suggests that the cluster has undergone a violent collision with another group or cluster of galaxies. A variation of brightness between longer and shorter radio waves at the center of the cluster also supports the theory that a major collision has occurred in this cluster.

Scale: Image is 14.2 arcmin across.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

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