The Lockman Hole

- Region of the sky with the lowest HI column density ($N_{HI} < 7 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-2}$)
- Located between the pointer stars of the Big Dipper.
- Important for X-ray observations
The Hole

Fig. 2.—The total H\textsc{i} column density toward The Hole. Positions are offsets from $\alpha = 10^\mathrm{h} 45^\mathrm{m}$, $\delta = 57^\circ 20'$. Column density contours are in units of $1 \times 10^{19}$ cm$^{-2}$. Spectra were measured every 10', in both coordinates, within the area outlined by the dashed border. The column density never drops significantly below $4.5 \times 10^{19}$ cm$^{-2}$ over this map.