CMB

part 2
Recombination

Seager, Sasselov, & Scott (1999), RECFAST code

Fig. 1: Multi-level hydrogen recombination for the standard CDM parameters $\Omega_{\text{tot}} = 1.0, \Omega_B = 0.05, H_0 = 50, Y_P = 0.24, T_0 = 2.728\,\text{K}$. The two lines are the complete calculation of Paper I (dotted) and the standard (effective 3-level atom) calculation (dashed).
Photon decoupling

redshift

time
Last Scattering Surface

The cosmic microwave background Radiation's "surface of last scatter" is analogous to the light coming through the clouds to our eye on a cloudy day.

We can only see the surface of the cloud where light was last scattered.
Reionization

Hu & White (2004); artist:B. Christie/SciAm; available at http://background.uchicago.edu