AST5220 - Cosmology 2 Milestone 2

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The program, plots and the report can be found in the following Github page:

https://github.com/AHo94/AST5220_Projects/tree/master/Project2

Mathematics

We start with the differential equation of the optical depth, given as

$$\frac{d\tau}{dx} = -\frac{n_e \sigma_T a}{\mathcal{H}} = -\frac{n_e \sigma_T}{H} \tag{1}$$

Where σ_T is the Thompson cross-section, H the Hubble parameter and n_e the number density for free electrons. To compute the electron density, we define the fractional electron density $X_e \equiv n_e/n_H$. X_e can be found in two different ways

Physical dimensions

Saha equation

One way to determine X_e is by using the Saha equation. The Saha equation is a good approximation if $X_e \approx 1$, that is, for early times of the universe. Saha equation is given as

$$\frac{X_e^2}{1 - X_e} = \frac{1}{n_b} \left(\frac{m_e T_b}{2\pi}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\epsilon_0/T_b} \tag{2}$$

First thing to note is that the left hand side is dimensionless, whereas the right hand side has the dimension $(kg K)^{3/2}m^3$ and the argument inside the exponential (which should be dimensionless) has the dimension J/K. We want to multiply a certain combination of c, \hbar or k_b to turn the right hand side dimensionless. Testing this for different combinations, we get the Saha equation in dimensionless form

$$\frac{X_e^2}{1 - X_e} = \frac{1}{n_b} \left(\frac{m_e T_b k_b}{2\pi \hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\epsilon_0/(k_b T_b)}$$
 (3)

This can be written in the form

$$X_e^2 + BX_e - B = 0$$
, where $B = \frac{1}{n_b} \left(\frac{m_e T_b k_b}{2\pi \hbar^2}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\epsilon_0/(k_b T_b)}$ (4)

This is just a second order equation, which can be easily solved.

Peebles' equation

The second way to determine X_e is to use Peebles' equation. It is a good approximation when $X_e \ll 1$. Peebles' equation is given as

$$\frac{dX_e}{dx} = \frac{C_r(T_b)}{H} \left[\beta(T_b)(1 - X_e) - n_H \alpha^{(2)}(T_b) X_e^2 \right]$$
 (5)

This depends on many other parameters, which I will for now not write down. Once again, the left hand side is dimensionless, but the right hand side has the dimension of seconds, due to the Hubble parameter. The tricky part now is to determine whether $C_r(T_b)$ or $\beta(T_b)$ (and $\alpha^{(2)}(T_b)$) are dimensionless parameters. Let us first check $C_r(T_b)$, which is given as

$$C_r(T_b) = \frac{\Lambda_{2s \to 1s} + \Lambda_{\alpha}}{\Lambda_{2s \to 1s} + \Lambda_{\alpha} + \beta^{(2)}(T_b)}$$
(6)

Where $\Lambda_{2s\to 1s} = 8.227s^{-1}$, i.e has the unit of s^{-1} . This parameter appears both on the numerator and the denominator, which implies that $C_r(T_b)$ is dimensionless. Now we have to determine the dimensions of Λ_{α} and $\beta^{(2)}(T_b)$. Looking at the numerator of $C_r(T_b)$, we demand that Λ_{α} has to have dimension of s^{-1} as well, which ensures that we add two of physical quantities of same dimension ¹. Currently, Λ_{α} is given as

$$\Lambda_{\alpha} = H \frac{(3\epsilon_0)^3}{(8\pi)^2 n_{1s}} \tag{7}$$

which currently has the dimension $J^3m^{-3}s^{-1}$. To fix this, we can multiply with $1/(\hbar c)^3$, so the fixed quantity becomes

$$\Lambda_{\alpha} = H \frac{(3\epsilon_0)^3}{(8\pi)^2 n_{1s}} \left(\frac{1}{\hbar c}\right)^3 \tag{8}$$

Same reasoning can be applied to $\beta^{(2)}(T_b)$. I will not go into much detail here, but the parameters that are fixed, with respect to their dimensions, are the following:

$$\beta^{(2)}(T_b) = \beta(T_b)e^{3\epsilon_0/(4k_bT_b)} \tag{9}$$

$$\beta(T_b) = \alpha^{(2)}(T_b) \frac{k_b^{3/2}}{\hbar^3} \left(\frac{m_e T_b}{2\pi}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\epsilon_0/(k_b T_b)}$$
(10)

$$\alpha^{(2)}(T_b) = \frac{64\pi}{\sqrt{27\pi}} \frac{\alpha^2}{m_e^2} \frac{\hbar^2}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0}{k_b T_b}} \phi_2(T_b)$$
 (11)

$$\phi_2(T_b) = 0.448 \ln[\epsilon_0/(k_b T_b)]$$
 (12)

Peebles' equation itself remains unchanged.

¹Let's be honest here. Adding, for instance, 1kg and 1m does not make much sense.

The optical depth

The right hand side of equation (1) has the dimension s m⁻¹. We want the optical depth to be dimensionless so that the visibility function g(x) (as well as the exponential in g(x)) remains dimensionless. This is easily fixed by multiplying with c on the right hand side, that is

$$\frac{d\tau}{dx} = -\frac{n_e \sigma_T c}{H} \tag{13}$$

Numerics

Overflows in Peebles' equation

When we do the computation of the Peebles' equation, we will quickly run into overflow problems. This is especially true in the $\beta^{(2)}(T_b)$ term, where the exponential explodes because $\epsilon_0/(k_bT_b)$ is of order $\sim 10^4$. Instead, we can write out the expression of $\beta^{(2)}(T_b)$ to include the exponential in $\beta(T_b)$, which we write into a single exponential. That is

$$\beta^{(2)}(T_b) = \alpha^{(2)}(T_b) \frac{k_b^{3/2}}{\hbar^3} \left(\frac{m_e T_b}{2\pi}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\epsilon_0/(k_b T_b)} e^{3\epsilon_0/(4k_b T_b)}$$
$$= \alpha^{(2)}(T_b) \frac{k_b^{3/2}}{\hbar^3} \left(\frac{m_e T_b}{2\pi}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\epsilon_0/(4k_b T_b)}$$
(14)

The exponential should now no longer give any problems with overflows.

The program

The program is a continuation of the program from the previous milestone, with some extras and small changes to the old code.

The function Get_eta has been replaced with a new function $Cubic_spline$, which does the exact same thing, but applies for any function f(x). The function $Spline_DoubleDerivative$, from milestone 1, has also been replaced

with a new function, Spline_derivative, which applies to any derivatives and also uses natural spline boundary condition. Like the previous milestone, the interpolation is done by using Scipy's interpolate functions.

Calculating X_e is done in its own function Calculate_Xe. We assume $X_e = 1$ as the initial condition. The Saha equation and Peebles' equation has also been split into two functions. When solving Saha equation, we assume that the second order equation takes the form $X_e^2 + BX_e - B = 0$. From this, we use Numpy's function roots to solve this second order equation and returns the positively valued X_e . Peebles' equation is solved as a first order differential equation, using Scipy's odeint function, and the initial condition of X_e is the last calculated X_e value from the Saha equation. Both these methods has a lot of constant terms which can be pre-calculated outside the loops (calculated as global constants), which will reduce the overall computation time.

Once we have calculated X_e , we can compute $n_e = X_e n_H$. Note that the number density of the electrons is a function of x, that is $n_e = n_e(x)$. Each value of n_e thus have their corresponding value of x. We have to keep this in mind when calculating τ . We only know the initial condition of τ , which is $\tau(0) = 0$, i.e, zero today. Because of this, we will have to solve τ "backwards" in time, so we will have to assign a new array for x, which we call x_{tau} . This array is the same as x_{tau} , but in reverse order. While calculating τ , we will have to find the n_e value, which corresponds to the correct x value. The calculated τ array is now in reversed order, with respect to x_{tau} , so we will have to reverse the whole array before we calculate the visibility function.

When we have calculated τ , again using Scipy's odeint, we can calculate the visibility function $\tilde{g} = -\tau' \exp(-\tau)$. Note that τ' is the interpolated values of τ , and not the one from equation (13). The interpolated values are calculated using the spline functions, explained above. With the interpolated values of τ' and computed values of τ , we use the function Visibility_func to compute \tilde{g} . The number of points n_eta has been increased from 1000 to 3000 to give a better resolution to the visibility function. However, too many points will give some instabilities (for unknown reasons) to both τ' and τ'' .

All sanity checks are done with respect to the results from Callin, in reference [1].

Plots

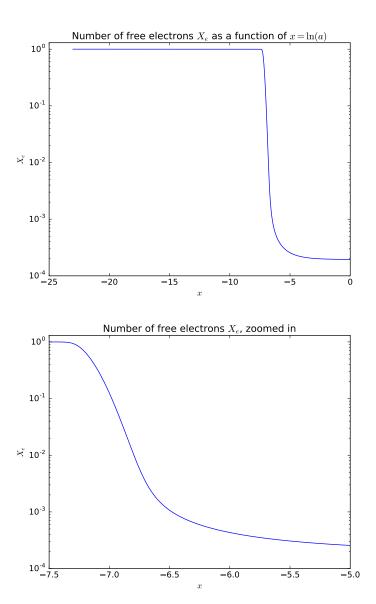


Figure 1: The number of free electrons as a function of $x = \ln a$. The bottom image is a zoomed in segment from x = -7.5 to x = -5 and it serves as a sanity check with respect to figure 1 in Callin. Although, we were asked to plot it as a function of z, I decided to plot it as a function of x because an array for z, with $a_{init} = 10^{-10}$ to a = 1 would be very hard to scale with 3000 points.

6

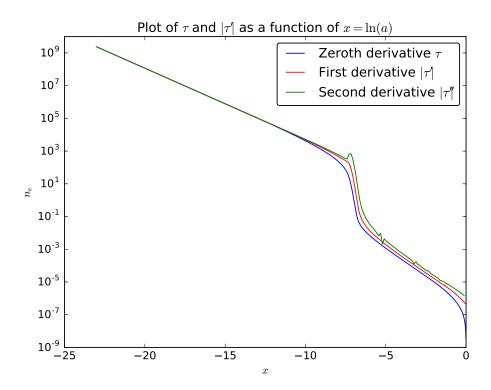


Figure 2: Plot of the computed optical depth τ (blue), its interpolated derivative $|\tau'|$ (red) and the interpolated second derivative $|\tau''|$. The number of interpolated points for the second derivative was reduced from 3000 to 200, due to the instabilities it caused (as seen in the figure).

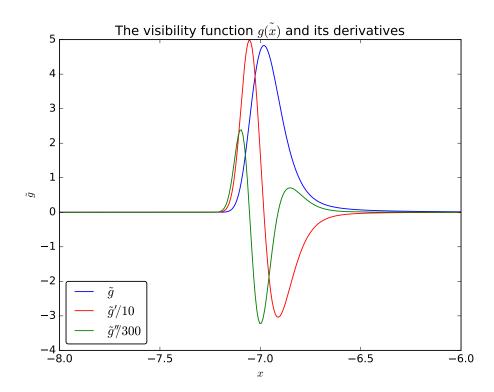


Figure 3: Plot of the visibility function $\tilde{g}(x)$ and its interpolated (and scaled) derivatives. We note the peak of the visibility function around the point x = -7.

The code

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from scipy import interpolate
from scipy import integrate
# Global constants
# Units
eV = 1.60217647e-19
Mpc = 3.08568025e22
# Cosmological parameters
Omega_b = 0.046
Omega_m = 0.224
Omega_r = 8.3e-5
Omega_nu = 0.0
Omega_lambda = 1.0 - Omega_m - Omega_b - Omega_r -
  Omega_nu
T_0 = 2.725
n_s = 1.0
A_s = 1.0
h0 = 0.7
H_0 = h0*100.0*1e3/Mpc
# General constants
c = 2.99792458e8
epsilon_0 = 13.605698 * eV
m_e = 9.10938188e-31
m_H = 1.673534e-27
sigma_T = 6.652462e-29
G_{grav} = 6.67258e-11
rho_c0 = (3.0*H_0**2)/(8*np.pi*G_grav)
alpha = 7.29735308e-3
hbar = 1.05457148e-34
k_b = 1.3806503e-23
# Density Parameters today
```

```
rho_m0 = Omega_m*rho_c0
rho_b0 = Omega_b*rho_c0
rho_r0 = Omega_r*rho_c0
rho_lambda0 = Omega_lambda*rho_c0
# Precalculate certain factors to reduce number of
  float point operations
Saha_b_factor = ((m_e*T_0*k_b)/(2*np.pi*hbar**2))
  **(3.0/2.0)
                  # Factor in front of 'b' in Saha
   equation
rhoCrit_factor = 3.0/(8*np.pi*G_grav)
        # Used for critical density at arbitrary
  times
# Constant used for Peebles equation and some
  constant factors that can be precalculated
Lambda 2sto1s = 8.227
alpha_factor = ((64.0*np.pi)/(np.sqrt(27.0*np.pi)))
   *((alpha/m_e)**2.0)*(hbar**2.0/c)
beta_factor = (((m_e*T_0*k_b)/(2.0*np.pi))
   **(3.0/2.0))*(1.0/hbar**3.0)
Lambda_alpha_factor = ((3.0*epsilon_0/(hbar*c))
  **3.0)/(8*np.pi)**2.0
EpsTemp_factor = epsilon_0/(k_b*T_0)
class time_mod():
   def __init__(self, savefig):
      self.savefig = savefig # If savefig = 0,
         plots the data. If savefig = 1, saves the
         plots in a pdf
      if savefig != 0 and savefig != 1:
         print 'Current value of savefig = ',
            savefig
         raise ValueError('Argument savefig not
            properly set. Try savefig = 1 (saves as
            pdf) or savefig = 0 (do not save as pdf)
            ')
```

```
self.n1 = 200
self.n2 = 300
self.n_t = self.n1 + self.n2
self.z_start_rec = 1630.4
self.z_end_rec = 614.2
self.z_0 = 0.0
self.x_start_rec = -np.log(1.0 + self.
  z_start_rec)
self.x_end_rec = -np.log(1.0 + self.z_end_rec)
self.x_0 = 0.0
self.a_start_rec = 1.0/(1.0 + self.z_start_rec
  )
self.a_end_rec = 1.0/(1.0 + self.z_end_rec)
# Used for the x-values for the conformal time
self.n_eta = 3000
self.a_init = 1e-10
self.x_eta_init = np.log(self.a_init)
self.x_eta_end = 0
# Set up grid, these are currently unused
x_t_rec = np.linspace(self.x_start_rec, self.
  x_end_rec, self.n1)
x_t_today = np.linspace(self.x_end_rec, self.
  x_0, self.n2)
a_t_rec = np.linspace(self.a_start_rec, self.
  a_end_rec, self.n1)
a_t_today = np.linspace(self.a_end_rec, 1,
  self.n2)
# Merging the arrays into one
self.x_t = np.concatenate([x_t_rec, x_t_today
self.a_t = np.concatenate([a_t_rec, a_t_today
  ])
# Set up grid of x-values for the integrated
```

```
eta and tau
   self.x_eta = np.linspace(self.x_eta_init, self
      .x_eta_end, self.n_eta)
                               # X-values for
     the conformal time
   self.x_tau = np.linspace(self.x_eta_end, self.
     x_eta_init, self.n_eta)
                               # Reversed array,
      used to calculate tau
def Get_Hubble_param(self, x):
   """ Function returns the Hubble parameter for
     a given x """
   return H_0*np.sqrt((Omega_b + Omega_m)*np.exp
      (-3*x) + Omega_r*np.exp(-4*x) +
     Omega_lambda)
def Get_Hubble_prime(self, x):
   """ Function returns the scaled Hubble
     parameter for a given x value. See report 1
   return H_0*np.sqrt((Omega_b + Omega_m)*np.exp
      (-x) + Omega_r*np.exp(-2*x) + Omega_lambda*
     np.exp(2*x))
def Get_Hubble_prime_derivative(self, x):
   """ Function returns the derivative of the
     scaled Hubble parameter. See report 1 """
   return -H_0**2*(0.5*(Omega_b + Omega_m)*np.exp
     (-x) + Omega_r*np.exp(-2*x) - Omega_lambda*
     np.exp(2*x))/(Get_Hubble_prime(x))
def Get_Omegas(self, x):
   Calculates the omegas as a function of
     redshift
   Will first have to calculate the energy
     densities today, which is then used to
     calculate the energy density
   for an arbitrary time. See report 1
```

```
\Pi_{i}\Pi_{j}\Pi_{j}
   H = self.Get_Hubble_param(x)
   rho_c = rhoCrit_factor*H**2
   Omega_m_z = rho_mO*np.exp(-3*x)/rho_c
   Omega_b_z = rho_b0*np.exp(-3*x)/rho_c
   Omega_r_z = rho_rO*np.exp(-4*x)/rho_c
   Omega_lambda_z = rho_lambda0/rho_c
   return Omega_m_z, Omega_b_z, Omega_r_z,
      Omega_lambda_z
def Diff_eq_eta(self, eta, x_0):
   """ Returns the right hand side of the
      differential equation for the conformal
      time eta """
   dEtada = c/(self.Get_Hubble_prime(x_0))
   return dEtada
def Cubic_Spline(self, x_values, y_values,
  n_{points}, x_{start=np.log(1e-10)}, x_{end=0}:
   Cubic spline interpolation, zeroth derivative.
      Returns interpolated values of any
      variables, for a given range of x-values
   Temp_interp = interpolate.splrep(x_values,
      y_values)
   x_new = np.linspace(x_start, x_end, n_points)
   y_new = interpolate.splev(x_new, Temp_interp,
      der=0)
   return x_new, y_new
def Spline_Derivative(self, x_values, y_values,
  n_points, derivative, x_start=np.log(1e-10),
   """ Spline derivative for any functions. Using
       natural spline """
   if derivative < 1:</pre>
```

```
raise ValueError("Derivative input in
         Spline_Derivative less than 1. Use
         Cubic_spline instead.")
   Temp_interp = interpolate.splrep(x_values,
      y_values)
   x_new = np.linspace(x_start, x_end, n_points)
   yDerivative = interpolate.splev(x_new,
      Temp_interp, der=derivative)
   yDerivative[0] = 0
   yDerivative[-1] = 0
   return yDerivative
def Get_Index_Interpolation(self, X_init, X_end):
   Finds the array index/component of x for a
      given x-value
   This is specifically used to zoom into the
      interpolated segment
   EtaIndex1 = (np.abs(self.x_eta - X_init)).
      argmin()
   EtaIndex2 = (np.abs(self.x_eta - X_end)).
      argmin()
   if EtaIndex1-1 <= 0:</pre>
      EtaIndex1 = 0
   else:
      EtaIndex1 -= 1
   if EtaIndex2+1 >= self.n_eta:
      EtaIndex2 = self.n_eta-1
   else:
      EtaIndex2 += 1
   return EtaIndex1, EtaIndex2
def Get_n_b(self, x):
   """ Calculate n_b (or n_H) at a given 'time' x
```

```
n_b = Omega_b*rho_cO*np.exp(-3.0*x)/m_H
   return n_b
def Saha_equation(self, x):
   Solves the Saha equation. Uses numpy.roots
     solver, see report. Only returns the
     positive valued X_e
   Exponential = np.exp(x)
   a = 1
   b = (Saha_b_factor/self.Get_n_b(x))*np.exp(-
     EpsTemp_factor*Exponential - 3.0*x/2.0)
   c = -b
   X_e = np.roots(np.array([a,b,c]))
   if X_e[0] > 0:
      return X_e[0]
   else:
      return X_e[1]
def Peebles_equation(self, X_e, x_0):
   """ Solves the right hand side of the Peebles
     equation """
   n_b = self.Get_n_b(x_0)
   H = self.Get_Hubble_param(x_0)
   exp_factor = EpsTemp_factor*np.exp(x_0)
   phi2 = 0.448*np.log(exp_factor)
   alpha2 = alpha_factor*np.sqrt(exp_factor)*phi2
   beta = alpha2*beta_factor*np.exp(-3.0*x_0/2.0-
     exp_factor)
   beta2 = alpha2*beta_factor*np.exp(-3.0*x_0
     /2.0-exp_factor/4.0)
   Lambda_alpha = H*Lambda_alpha_factor/((1.0-X_e
   C_r = (Lambda_2sto1s + Lambda_alpha)/(
     Lambda_2sto1s + Lambda_alpha + beta2)
   dXedx = (C_r/H)*(beta*(1.0-X_e) - n_b*alpha2*
```

```
X_e **2.0
   return dXedx
def Calculate_Xe(self):
   """ Function that calculates X_e. Initial
      condition X_e = 1 """
   X_e_TempArray = [1]
   for i in range(0, self.n_eta-1):
      if X_e_TempArray[i] > 0.99:
         X_e_TempArray.append(self.Saha_equation(
            self.x_eta[i]))
         PeebleXe = integrate.odeint(self.
            Peebles_equation, X_e_TempArray[i],
            self.x_eta[i:])
         break
   PeebleXe2 = []
   for i in range(0, len(PeebleXe)-1):
      PeebleXe2.append(PeebleXe[i][0])
   self.X_e_array = np.concatenate([np.array(
      X_e_TempArray), np.array(PeebleXe2)])
      Merges arrays
def Diff_eq_tau(self, tau, x_0):
   Solves the differential equation of tau. This
     is the right hand side of the equation
   Finds the n_e value that corresponds to the x
     value, since we use a reversed x-array.
   i = np.searchsorted(self.x_eta, x_0, side="
     left")
   dTaudx = - self.n_e[i]*sigma_T*c/self.
      Get_Hubble_param(x_0)
   return dTaudx
def Visibility_func(self, x, tau, tauDerv):
```

```
""" Computes the visibility function (tilde)
   g = np.zeros(len(tau))
   for i in range(0, len(tau)-1):
      g[i] = -tauDerv[i]*np.exp(-tau[i])
   return g
def Plot_results(self, n_interp_points, x_start0
  = -np.log(1.0 + 1630.4), x_end0 = -np.log(1.0)
  + 614.2)):
   """ Solves and plots the results """
   self.ScipyEta = integrate.odeint(self.
     Diff_eq_eta, 0, self.x_eta)
   # Calculate X_e, and n_e
   self.Calculate_Xe()
   self.n_e = self.X_e_array*self.Get_n_b(self.
     x_{eta}
   # Calculates tau and interpolates the first
     and second derivatives
   Taus = integrate.odeint(self.Diff_eq_tau, 0,
     self.x_tau)[::-1] # Calculate tau and
     reverse array
   TauDerivative = self.Spline_Derivative(self.
     x_eta, Taus, self.n_eta, derivative=1)
   TauDoubleDer = self.Spline_Derivative(self.
     x_eta, Taus, 200, derivative=2)
   # Calculate g, and interpolates the first and
     second derivatives
   g_tilde = self.Visibility_func(self.x_eta,
     Taus, TauDerivative)
   g_tildeDerivative = self.Spline_Derivative(
     self.x_eta, g_tilde, self.n_eta, derivative
     =1)
   g_tildeDoubleDer = self.Spline_Derivative(self
      .x_eta, g_tilde, self.n_eta, derivative=2)
   fig1 = plt.figure()
   ax1 = plt.subplot(111)
```

```
ax1.semilogy(self.x_eta, self.X_e_array)
ax1.set_ylim([10**(-4), 1.3])
plt.xlabel('$x$')
plt.ylabel('$X_e$')
plt.title('Number of free electrons $X_e$ as a
   function of x=\ln(a);
fig2 = plt.figure()
ax2 = plt.subplot(111)
ax2.semilogy(self.x_eta, self.X_e_array)
ax2.set_ylim([10**(-4), 1.3])
ax2.set_xlim([-7.5, -5])
plt.xlabel('$x$')
plt.ylabel('$X_e$')
plt.title('Number of free electrons $X_e$,
  zoomed in')
fig3 = plt.figure()
ax3 = plt.subplot(111)
plt.hold("on")
ax3.semilogy(self.x_eta, Taus, 'b-', label=r'
  Zeroth derivative $\tau$')
ax3.semilogy(self.x_eta, np.fabs(TauDerivative
  ), 'r-', label=r"First derivative $|\tau'|$
ax3.semilogy(np.linspace(self.x_eta_init, self
  .x_eta_end, 200), np.fabs(TauDoubleDer), 'g
  -', label=r"Second derivative $|\tau''|$")
plt.xlabel('$x$')
plt.ylabel('$n_e$')
plt.title(r"Plot of $\tau$ and $|\tau'|$ as a
  function of x=\ln(a)")
ax3.legend(loc='upper right', bbox_to_anchor
  =(1,1), ncol=1, fancybox=True)
fig4 = plt.figure()
ax4 = plt.subplot(111)
plt.hold("on")
```

```
ax4.plot(self.x_eta, g_tilde, 'b-', label=r"$\
        tilde{g}$")
      ax4.plot(self.x_eta, g_tildeDerivative/10.0, '
        r-', label=r"\frac{g}'/10")
      ax4.plot(self.x_eta, g_tildeDoubleDer/300.0, '
        g-', label=r"$\tilde{g}''/300$")
      ax4.set_xlim([-8,-6])
      plt.xlabel('$x$')
      plt.ylabel(r'$\tilde{g}$')
      plt.title(r"The visibility function $\tilde{g(
        x)}$ and its derivatives")
      ax4.legend(loc='lower left', bbox_to_anchor
        =(0,0), ncol=1, fancybox=True)
      if self.savefig == 1:
         fig1.savefig('../Plots/ElectronNumber.pdf')
         fig2.savefig('../Plots/ElectronNumberZoomed
            .pdf')
         fig3.savefig('../Plots/FirstDerivativeTau.
           pdf')
         fig4.savefig('../Plots/VisibilityFunc.pdf')
      else:
         plt.show()
solver = time_mod(savefig=1)
solver.Plot_results(100)
```

References

[1] P. Callin, https://arxiv.org/abs/astro-ph/0606683.