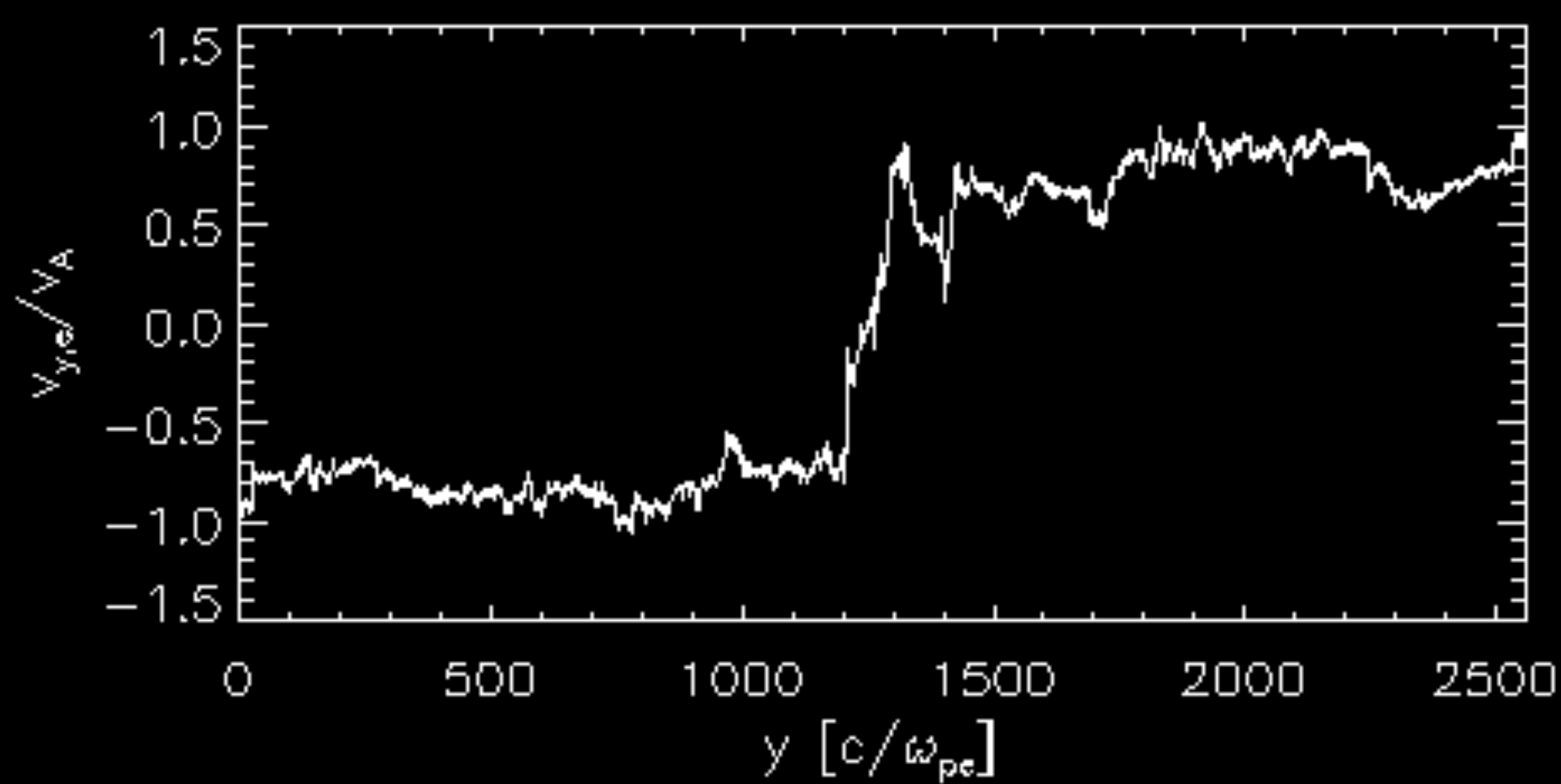
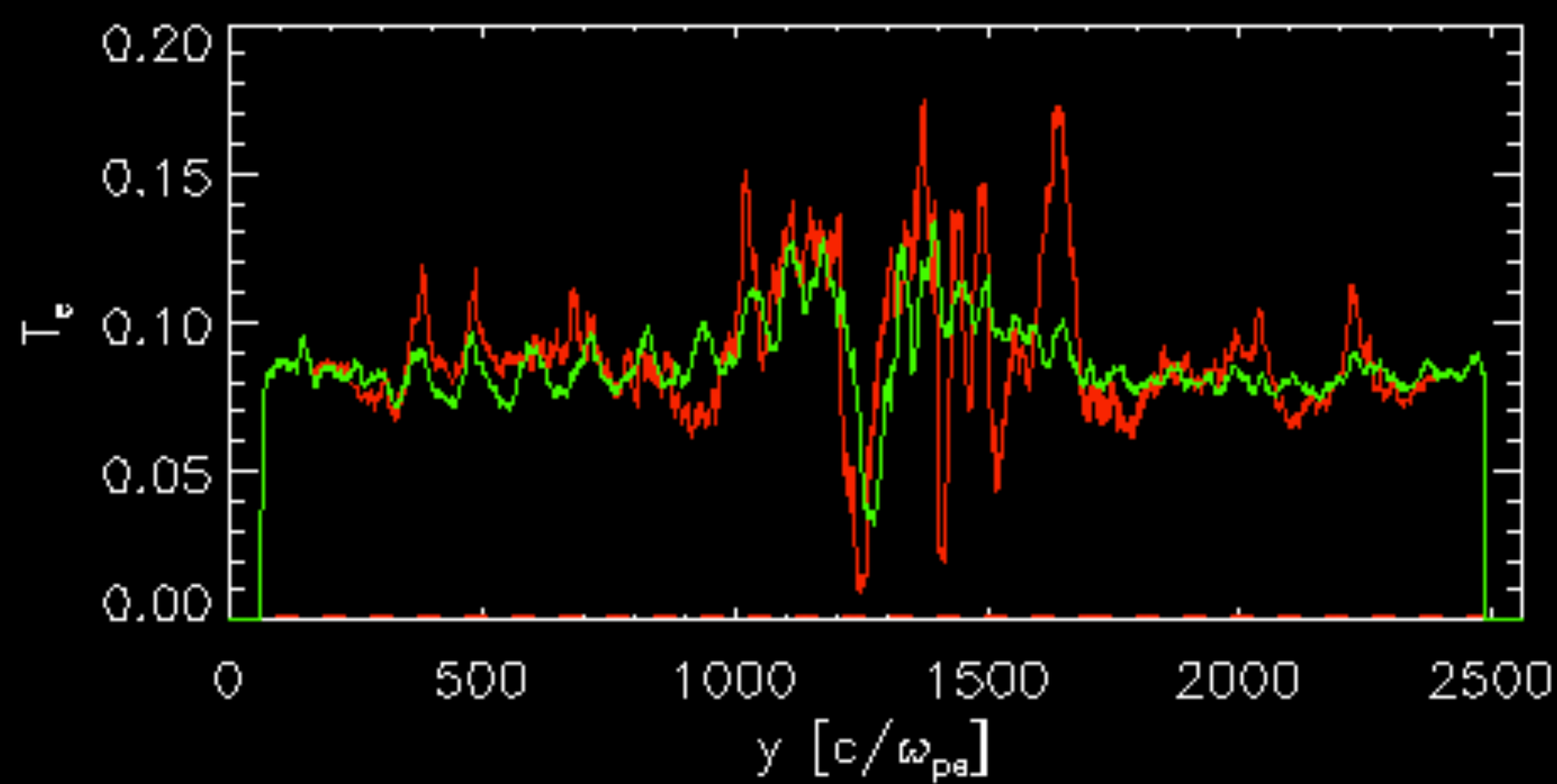
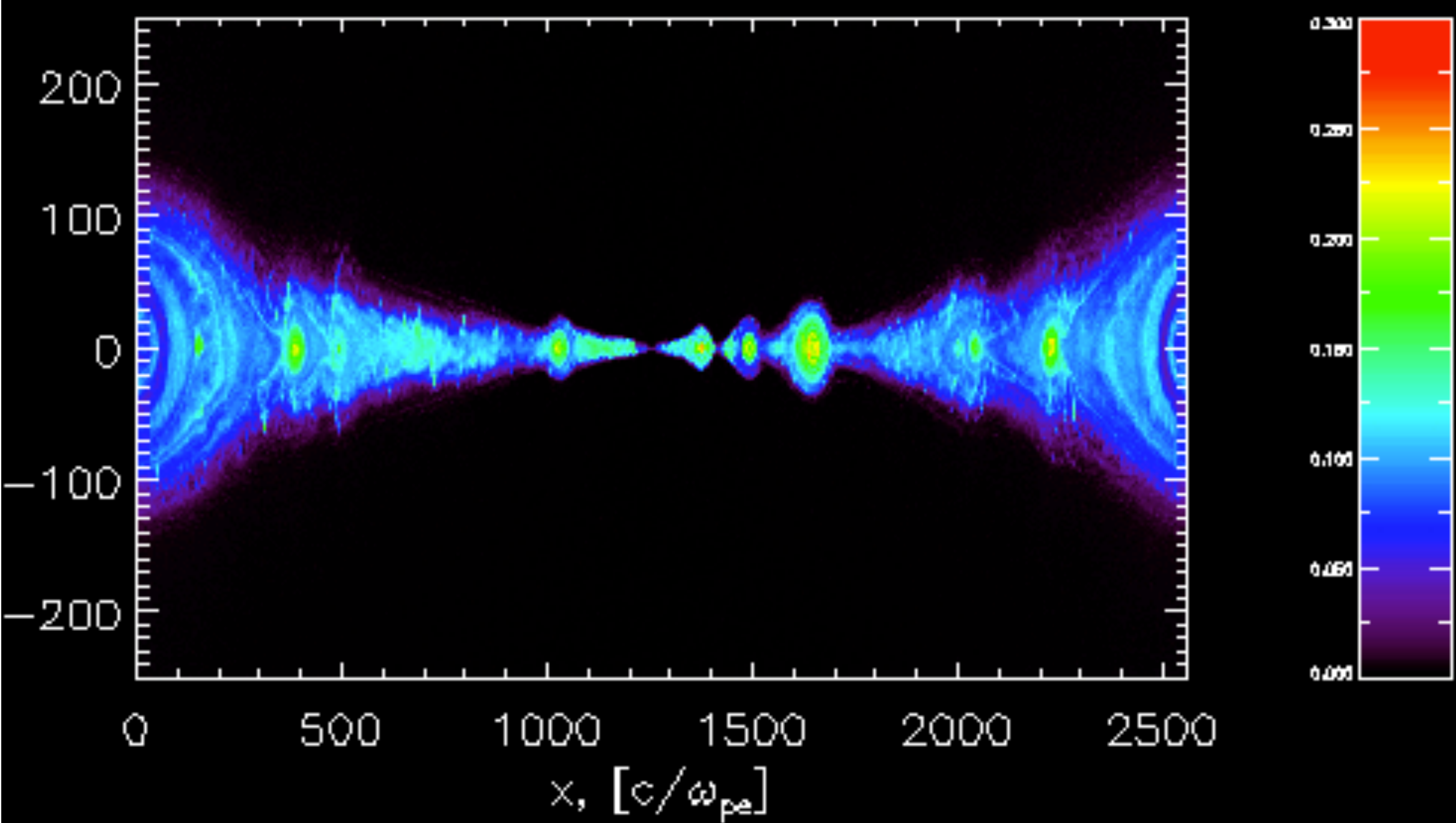




**This is a low-beta plasma...**

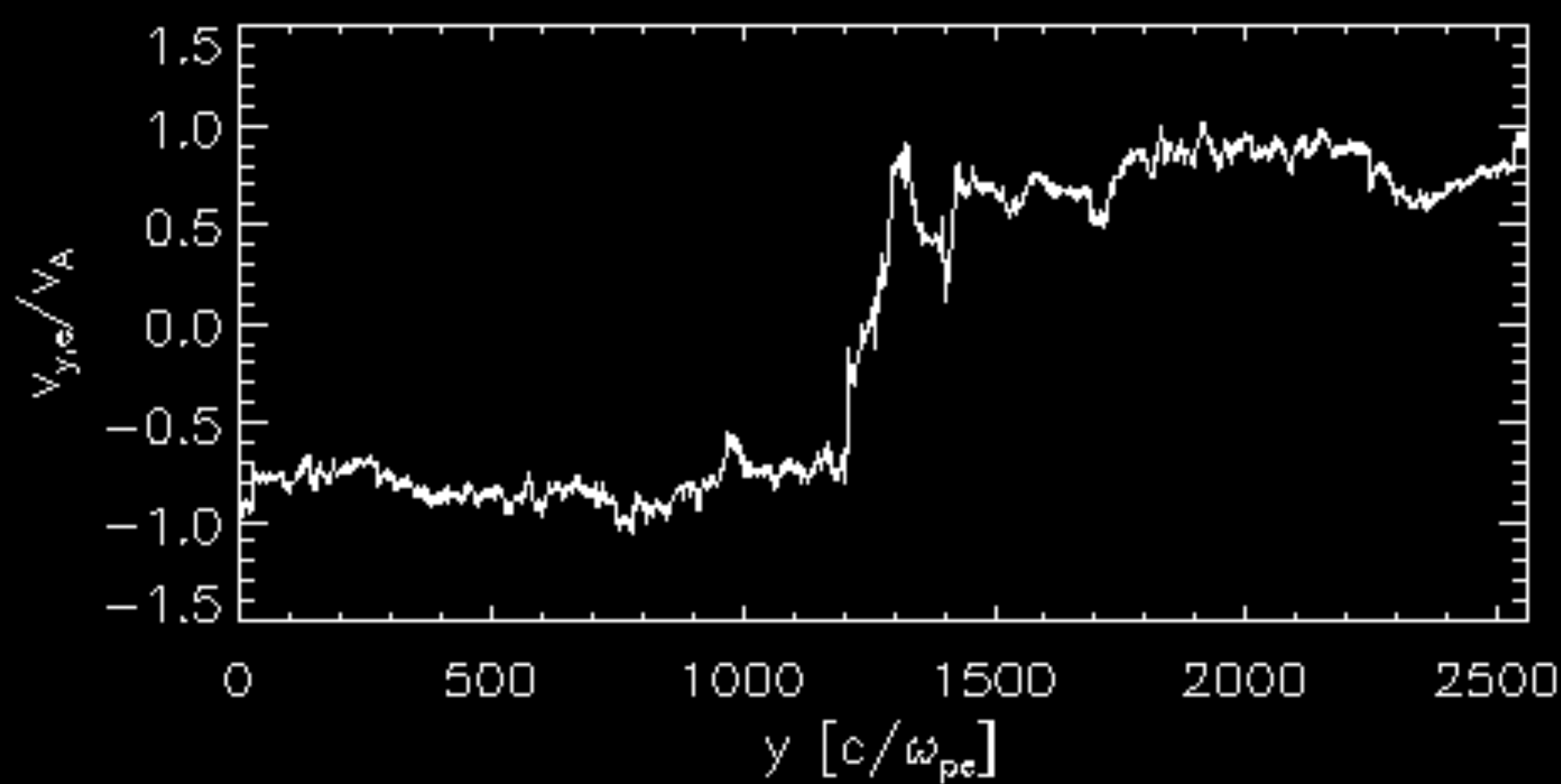
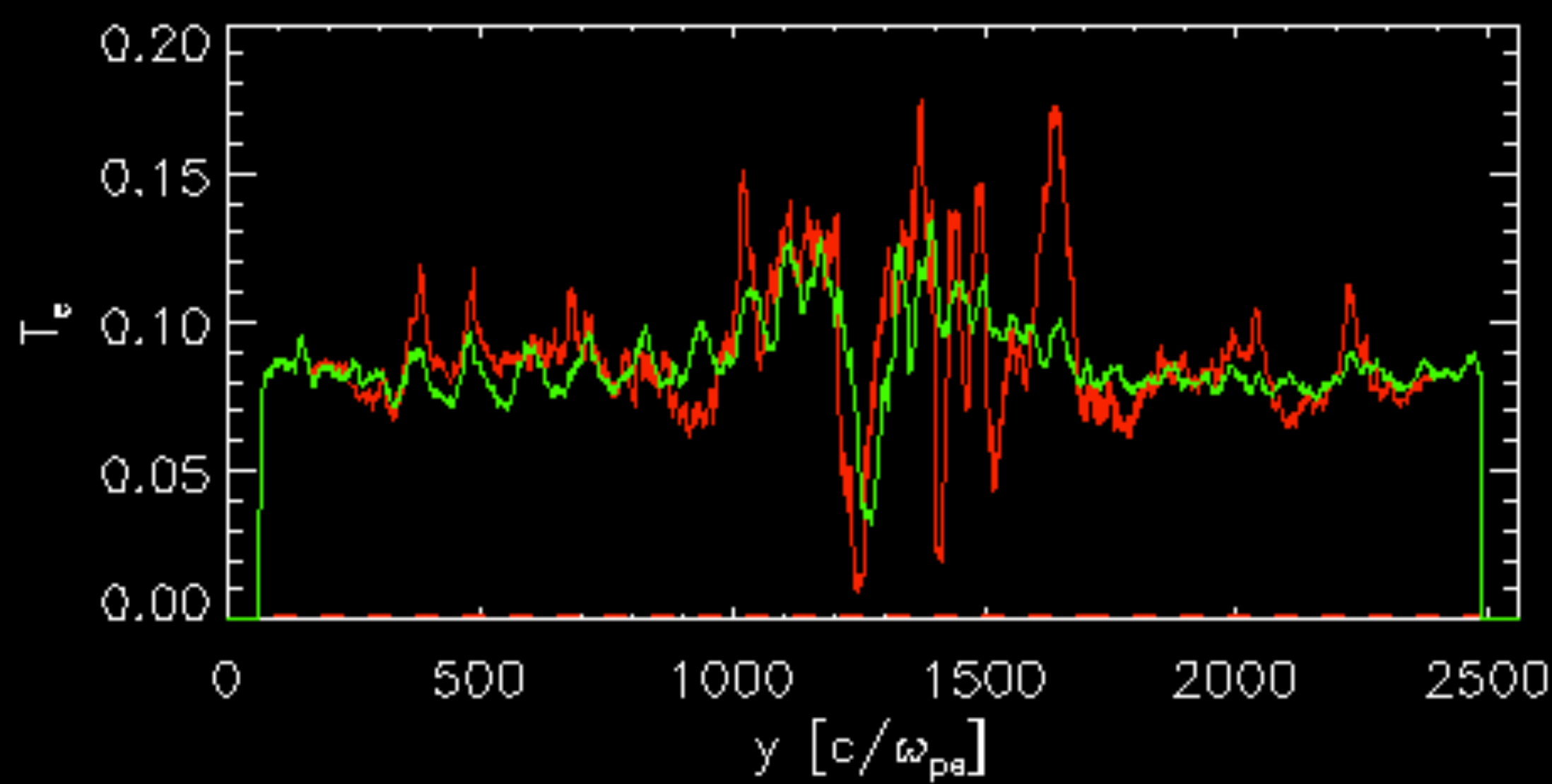
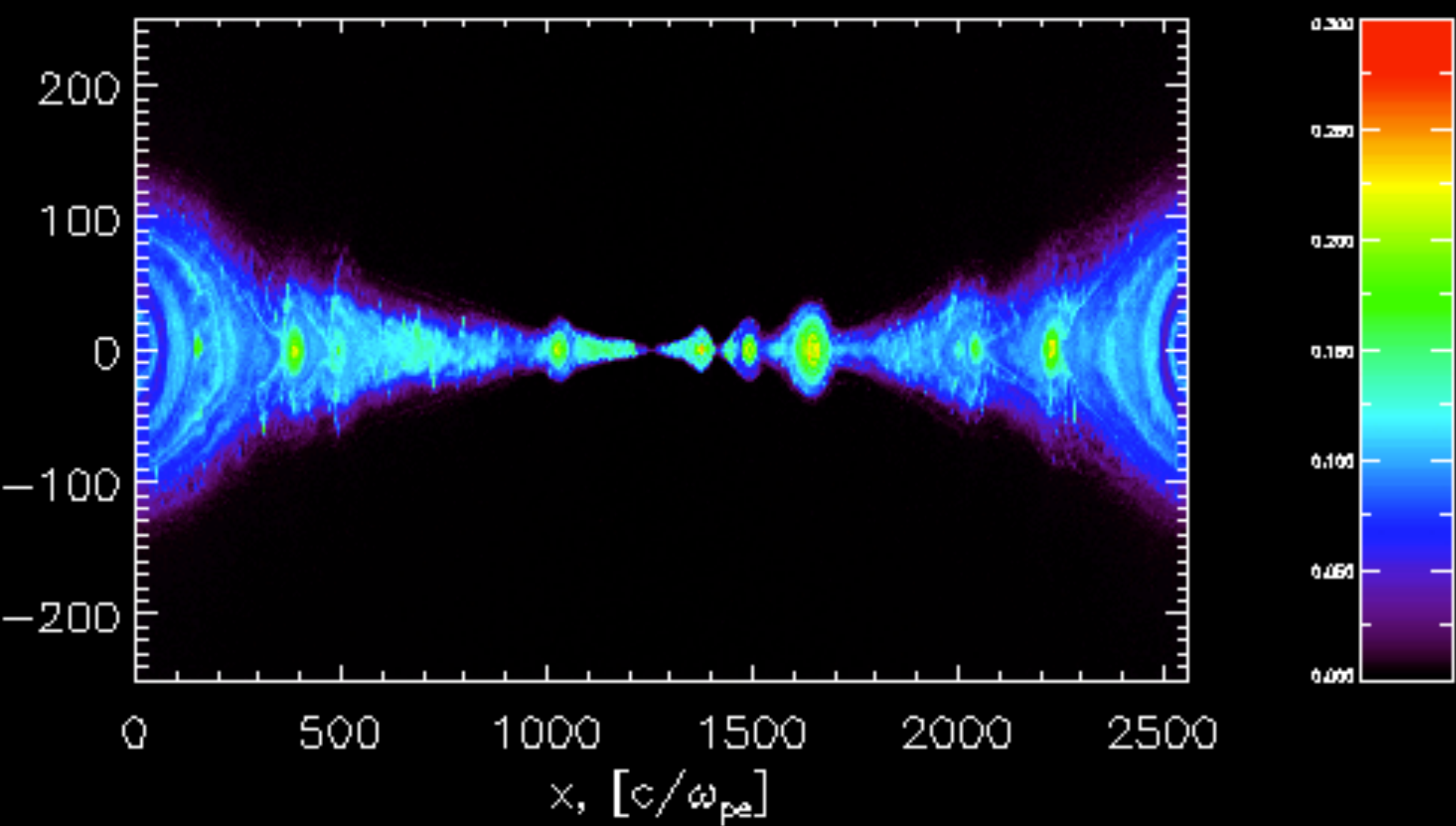








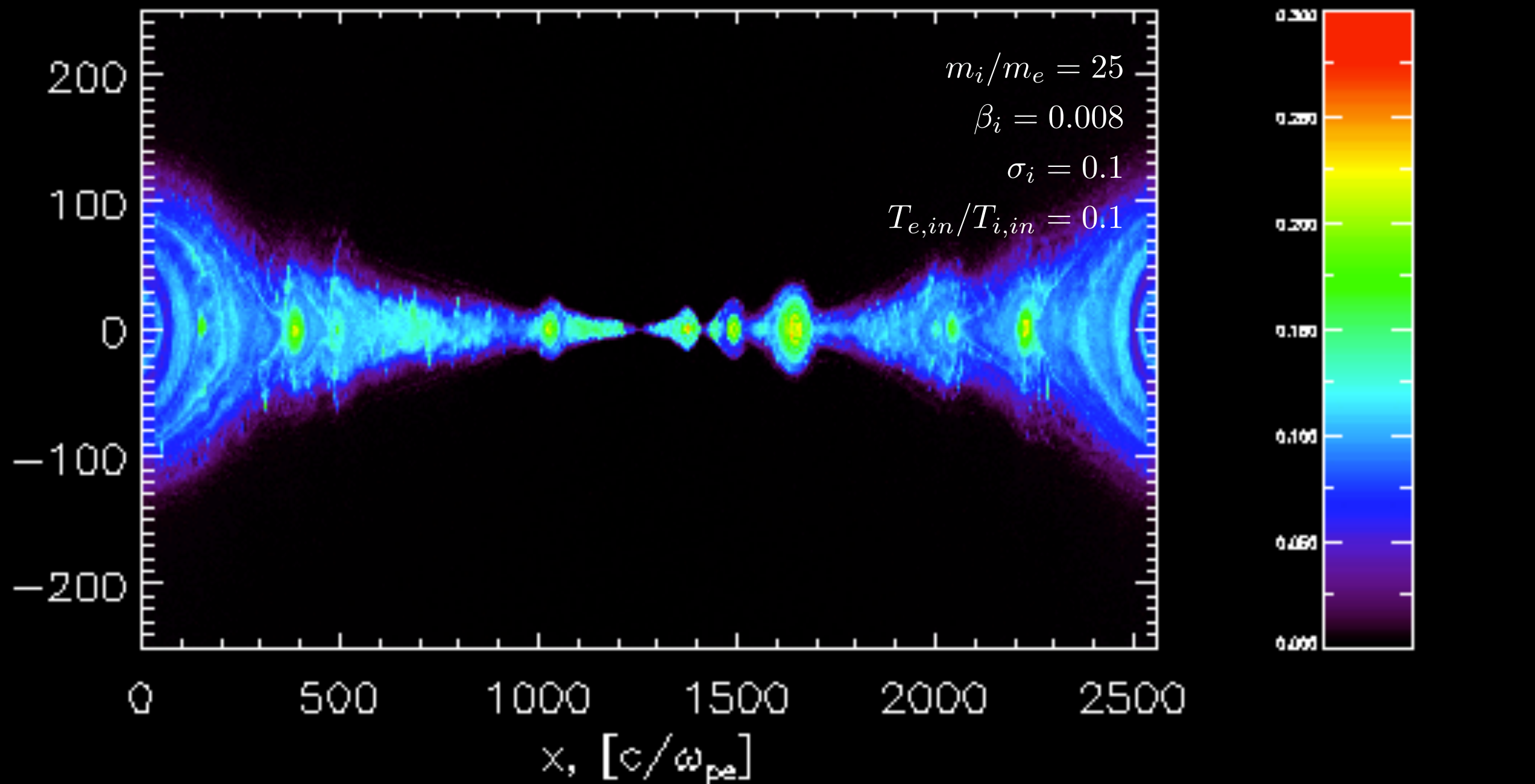






# This is a low-beta plasma...

- ▶ The circular substructures are 'magnetic islands'
- ▶ They form due to the tearing instability
- ▶ Islands heat particles by 'bouncing'



# ...and this is a high(er)-beta plasma

- ▶ Islands are absent; thermal pressure suppresses tearing mode
- ▶ Heuristically: the plasma is already 'hot,' so there is less heating that can be done by reconnection

$$k_b T_e / m_e c^2$$

