

**BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

# Ascension Island

# Observatory

# Monthly

# Magnetic

# Bulletin

**August 2007**

**07/08/AS**



**British Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

# ASCENSION ISLAND OBSERVATORY MAGNETIC DATA

## 1. Introduction

Ascension Island Observatory was installed by the British Geological Survey (BGS) with financial support from a consortium of oil companies and became operational in September 1992.

This bulletin is published to meet the needs of users of geomagnetic data. Magnetic observatory data is presented as a series of plots of one-minute, hourly and daily values, followed by a tabulation of monthly values. The operation of the observatory and presentation of data are described in the rest of this section.

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## 2. Position

Ascension Island Observatory, one of the geomagnetic observatories maintained and operated by BGS, is situated on a site adjacent to the Cable and Wireless Earth Station on Donkey Plain, Ascension Island.

The observatory co-ordinates are:

<i>Geographic:</i>	$7^{\circ}57.0'S$	$345^{\circ}37.4'E$
<i>Geomagnetic:</i>	$2^{\circ}20.8'S$	$56^{\circ}35.5'E$
<i>Height above mean sea level:</i>	177 m	

The geomagnetic co-ordinates are calculated using the 10th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field at epoch 2007.5.

## 3. The Observatory Operation

### 3.1 GDAS

The observatory operates under the control of the Geomagnetic Data Acquisition System (GDAS), developed by BGS, which was installed in August 2002. The system operates under the control of data acquisition software running on QNX computers, which control the data logging and communications.

There are two sets of sensors used for making magnetic measurements. A triaxial linear-core fluxgate magnetometer, manufactured by the Danish Meteorological Institute, is used to measure the variations in the horizontal ( $H$ ) and vertical ( $Z$ ) components of the field. The third sensor is oriented

perpendicular to these, and measures variations, which are proportional to the changes in declination ( $D$ ). Measurements are made at a rate of 1 Hz.

In addition to the fluxgate sensors there is a proton precession magnetometer making measurements of the absolute total field intensity ( $F$ ) at a rate of 0.1Hz.

The raw unfiltered data are retrieved automatically via Internet connections to the BGS office in Edinburgh in near real-time. The fluxgate data are filtered to produce one-minute values using a 61-point cosine filter whilst the total field intensity samples are filtered using a 7-point cosine filter.

### 3.2 Absolute Observations

The GDAS fluxgate magnetometers accurately measure variations in the components of the geomagnetic field, but not the absolute magnitudes. Two sets of absolute measurements of the field are made manually once per month. A fluxgate sensor mounted on a theodolite is used to determine  $D$  and inclination ( $I$ ); the GDAS PPM measurements, with a site difference correction applied, are used for  $F$ . The absolute observations are used in conjunction with the GDAS variometer measurements to produce a continuous record of the absolute values of the geomagnetic field elements as if they had been measured at the observatory reference pillar.

## 4. Data Presentation

The data presented in the bulletin are in the form of plots and tabulations described in the following sections.

### 4.1 Absolute Observations

The absolute observation measurements made during the month are tabulated. Also included are the corresponding baseline values, which are the differences between the absolute measurements and the variometer measurements of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  (in the sense absolute–variometer). These are also plotted (markers) along with the derived preliminary daily baseline values (line) throughout the year. Daily mean differences between the measured absolute  $F$  and the  $F$  computed from the baseline corrected  $H$  and  $Z$  values are plotted in the fourth panel (in the sense measured–derived). The bottom panel shows the daily mean temperature in the fluxgate chamber.

### 4.2 Summary magnetograms

Small-scale magnetograms are plotted which allow the month's data to be viewed at a glance. They are plotted 16 days a page and show the variations in  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$ . The scales are shown on the right-hand side of the page. On disturbed days the scales are multiplied by a factor, which is indicated above the panel for that day. The variations are centred on the monthly mean value, shown on the left side of the page.

### **4.3 Magnetograms**

The daily magnetograms are plotted using one-minute values of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  from the fluxgate sensors, with any gaps filled using back-up data. The magnetograms are plotted to a variable scale; scale bars are shown to the right of each plot. The absolute level (the monthly mean value) is indicated on the left side of the plots.

### **4.4 Hourly Mean Value Plots**

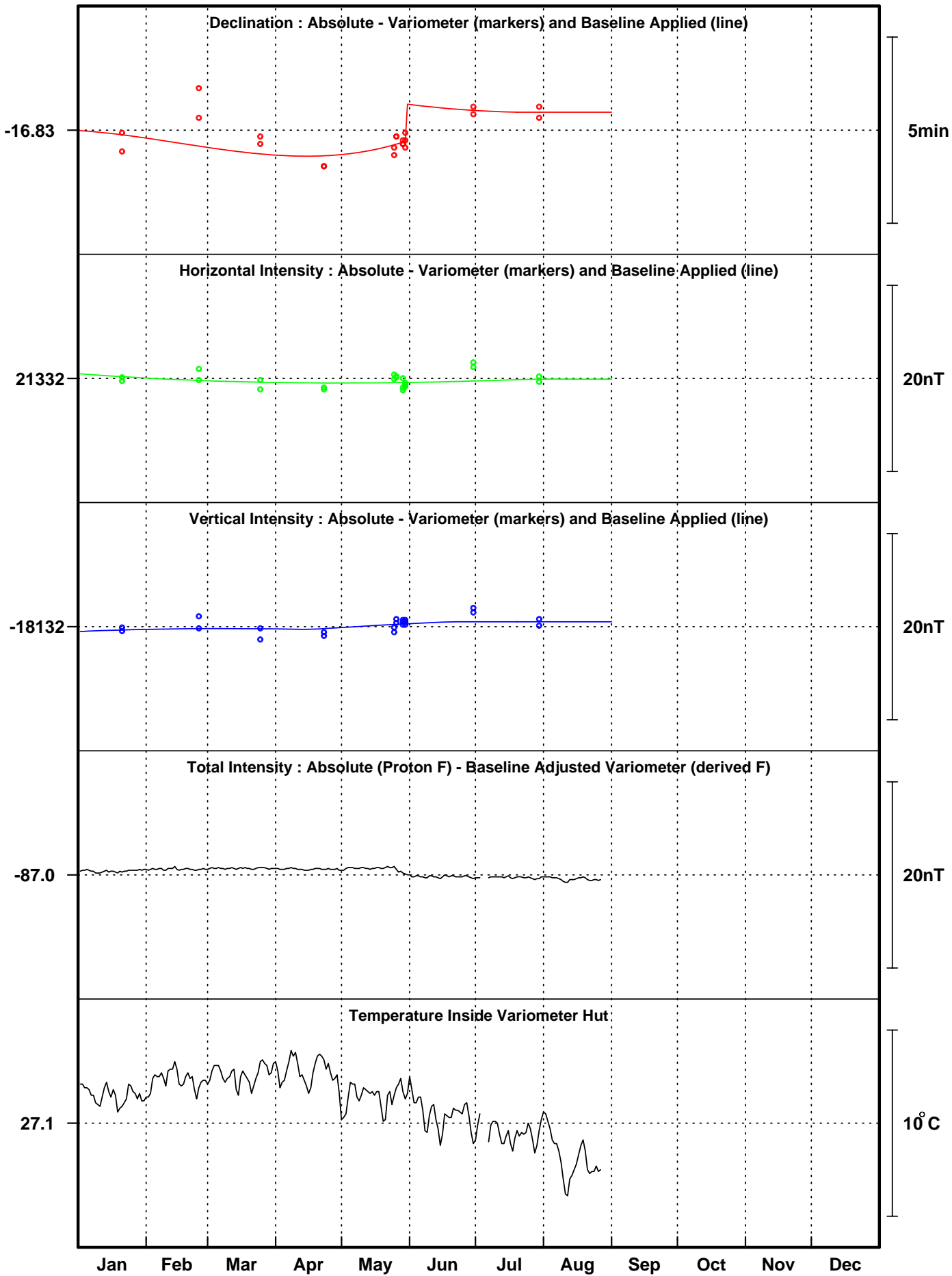
Hourly mean values of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  for the past 12 months are plotted in 27-day segments corresponding to the Bartels solar rotation number. Magnetic disturbances associated with active regions on the surface of the Sun may recur after 27 days: the same is true for geomagnetically quiet intervals. Plotting the data in this way highlights this recurrence, and also illustrates seasonal and diurnal variations throughout the year.

### **4.5 Daily and Monthly Mean Values**

Daily mean values of  $D$ ,  $H$ ,  $Z$  and  $F$  are plotted throughout the year. In addition, a table of monthly mean values of all the geomagnetic elements is provided. These values depend on accurate specification of the fluxgate sensor baselines. This data is provisional. It is anticipated that provisional values will not be altered by more than a few nT or tenths of arcminutes before being made definitive.



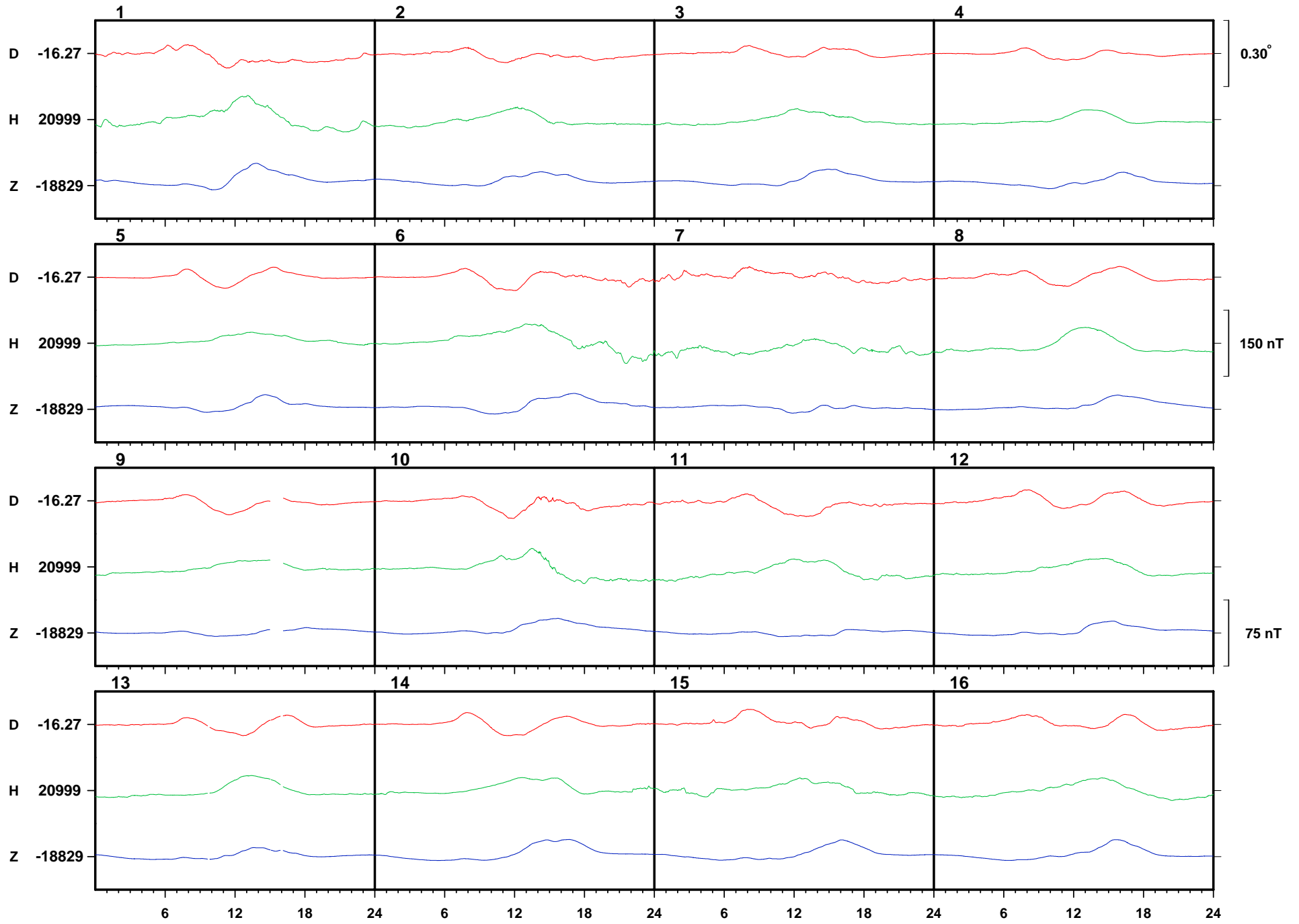
# Ascension Island 2007

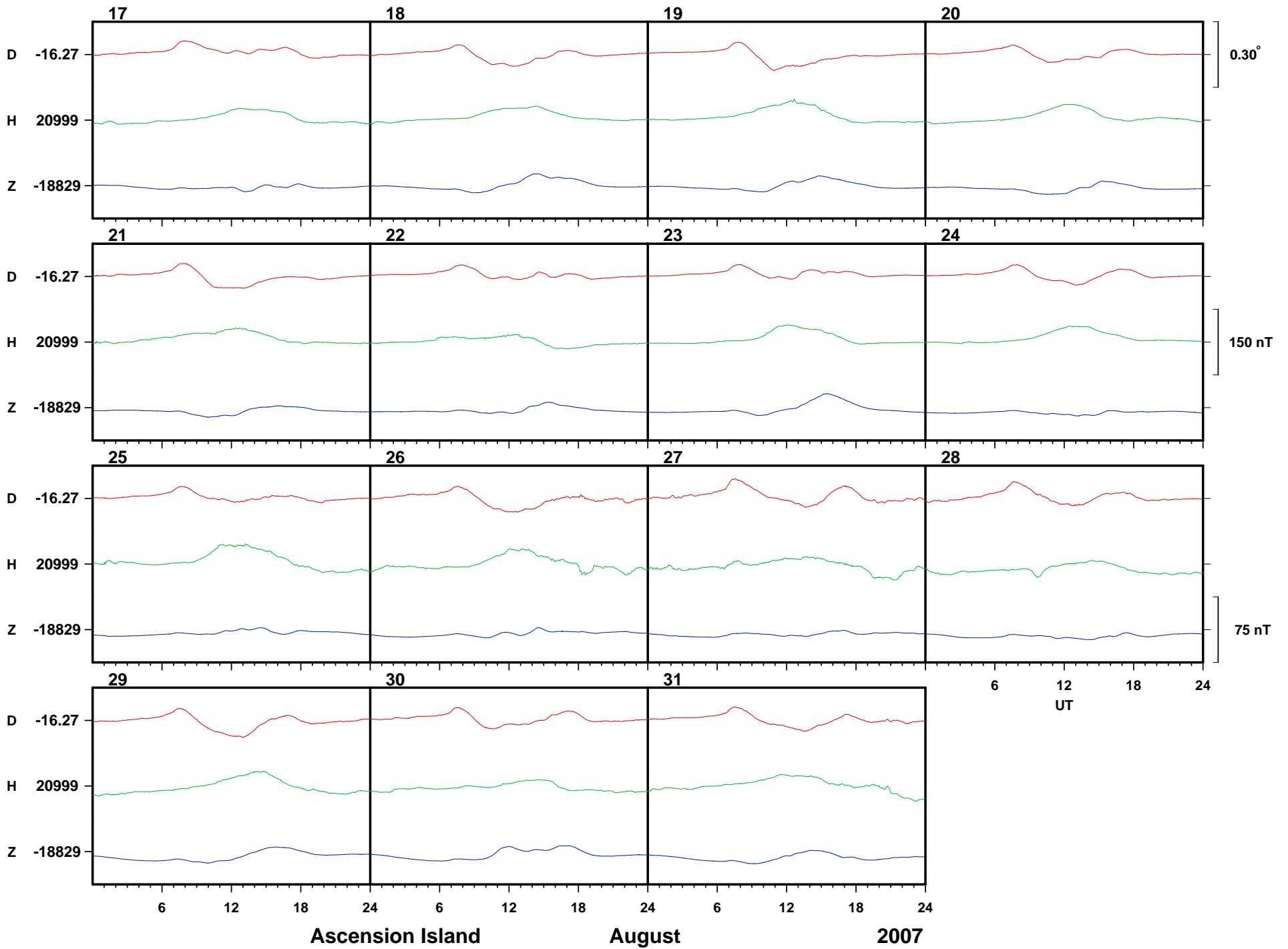


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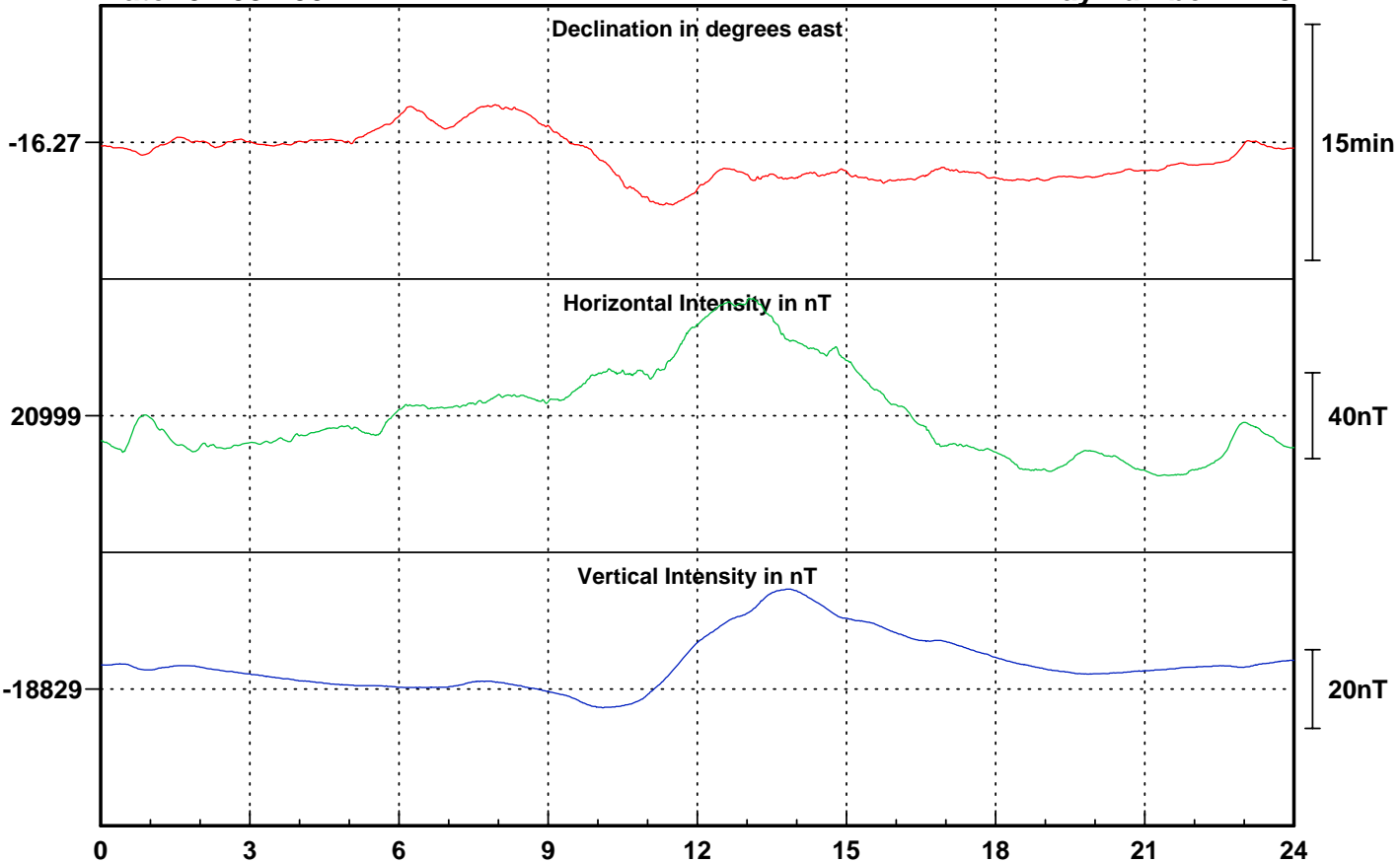




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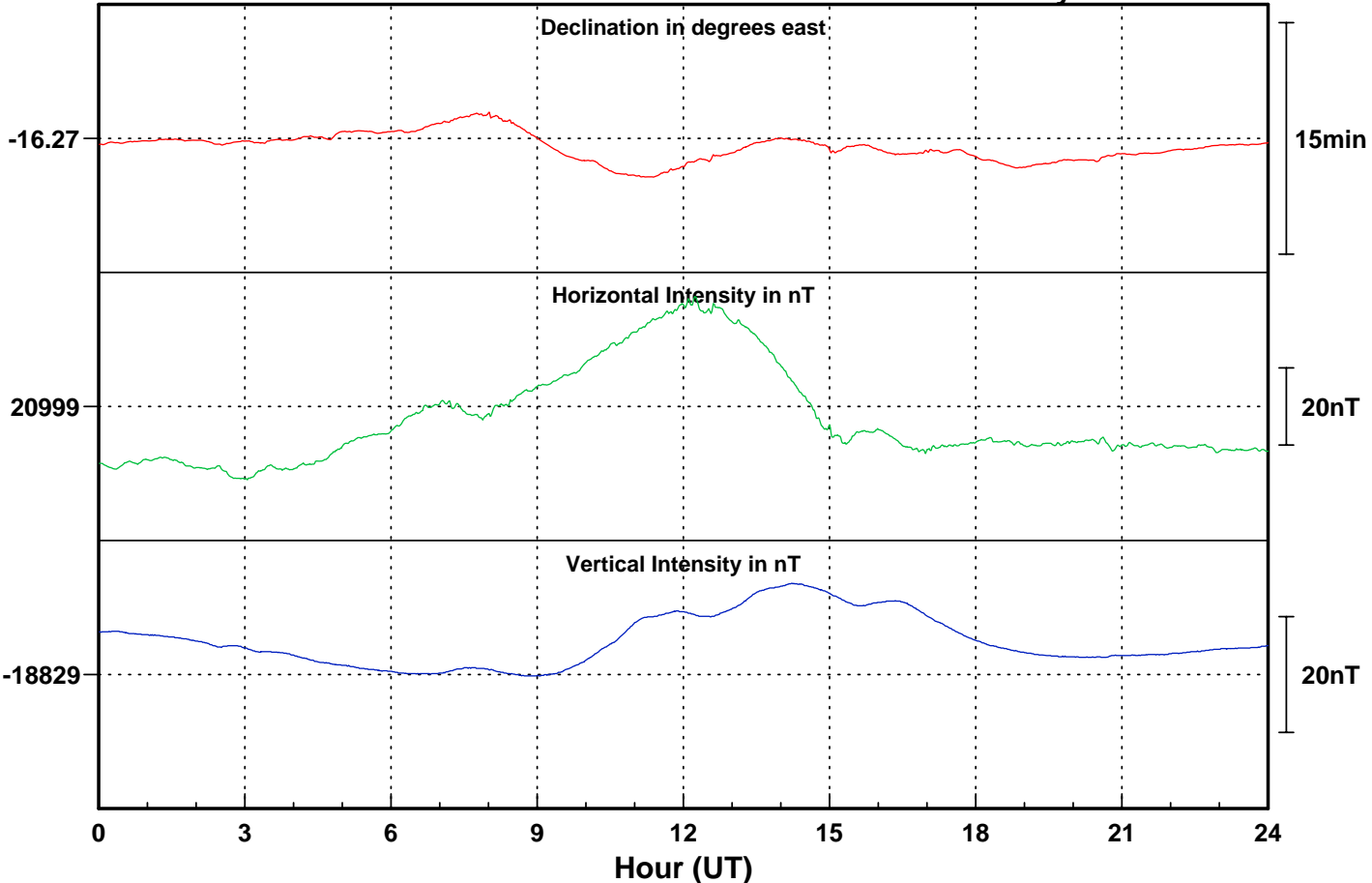
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Day number: 213



Date: 02-08-2007

Day number: 214

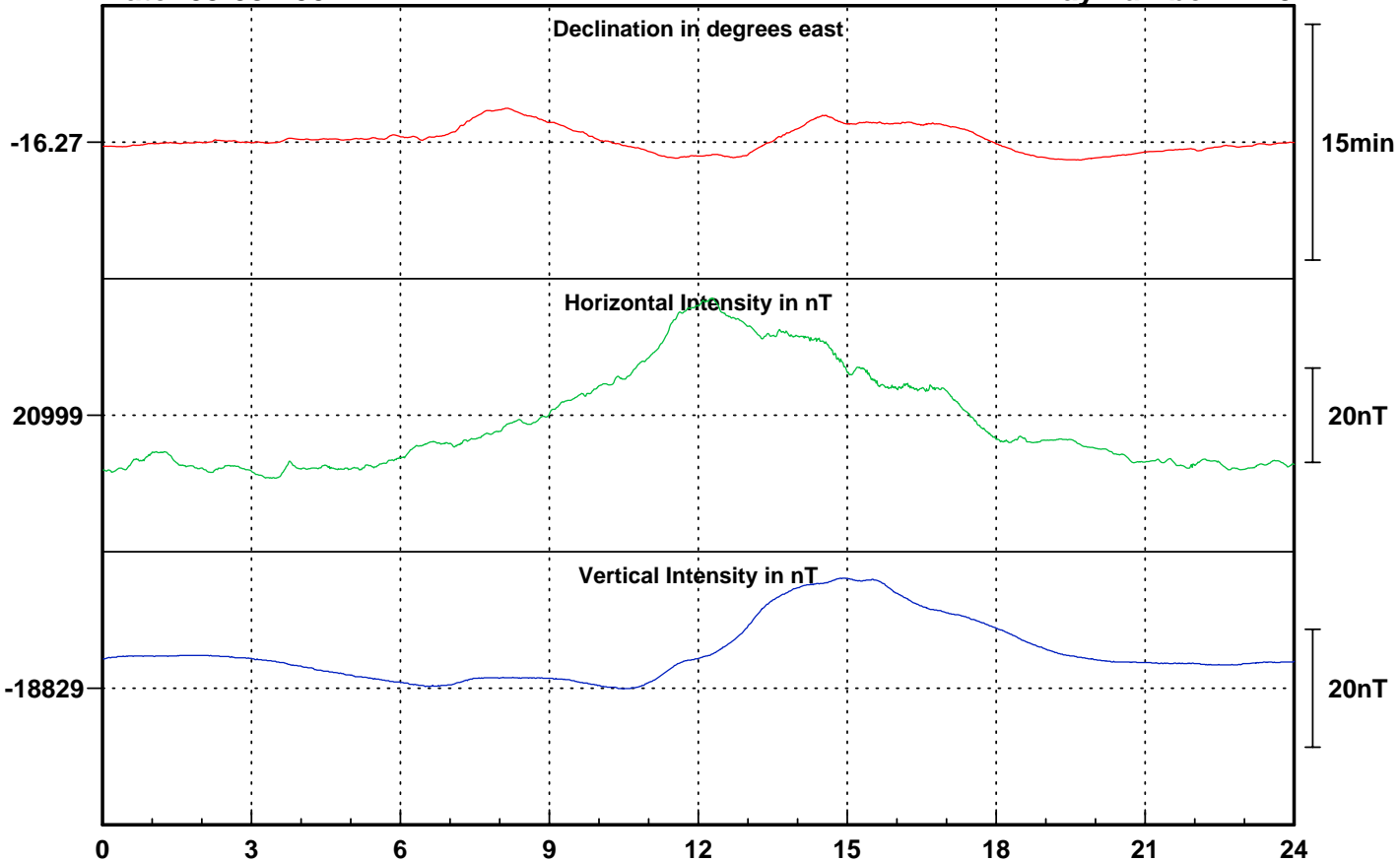




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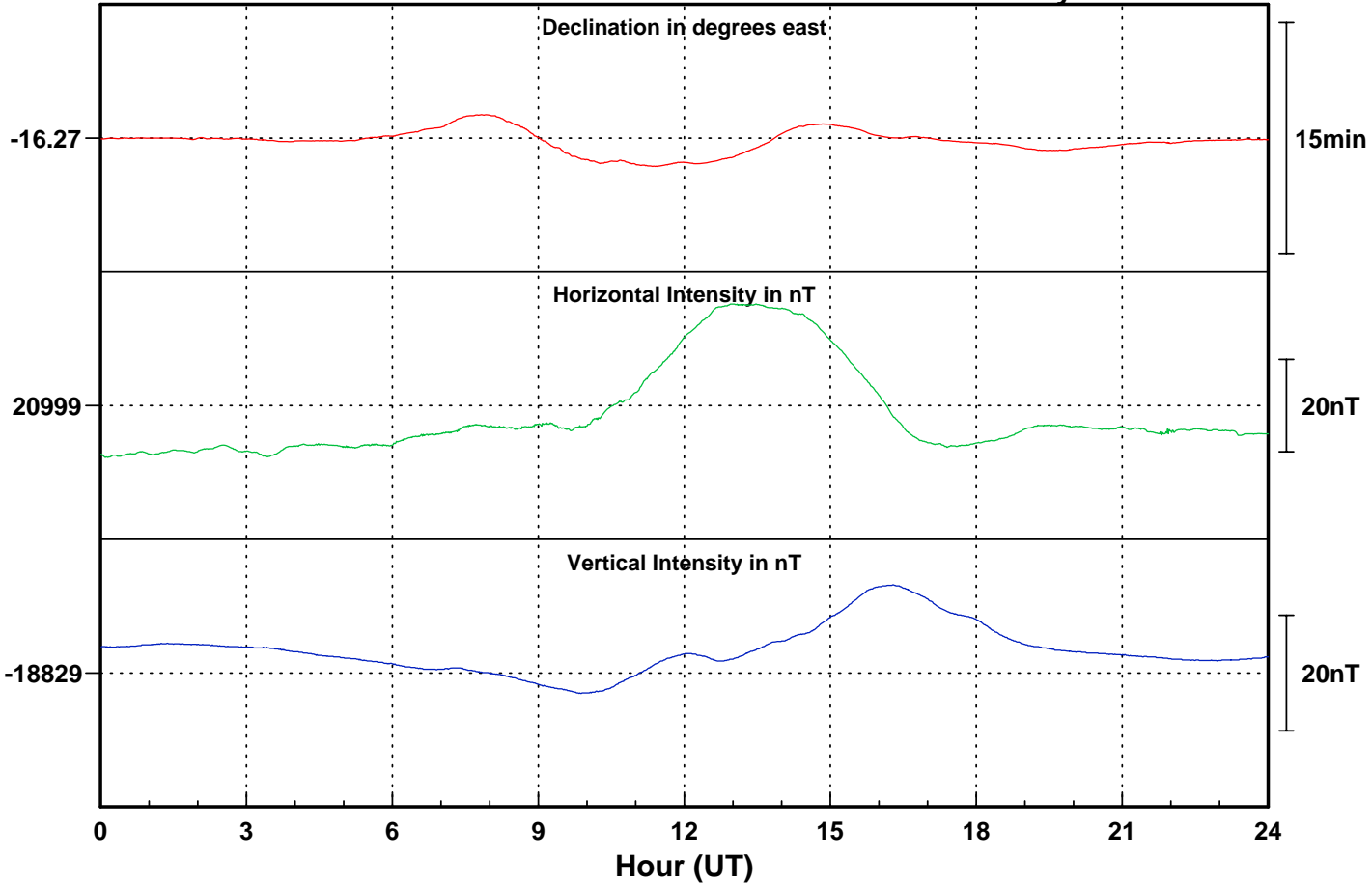
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Day number: 215



Date: 04-08-2007

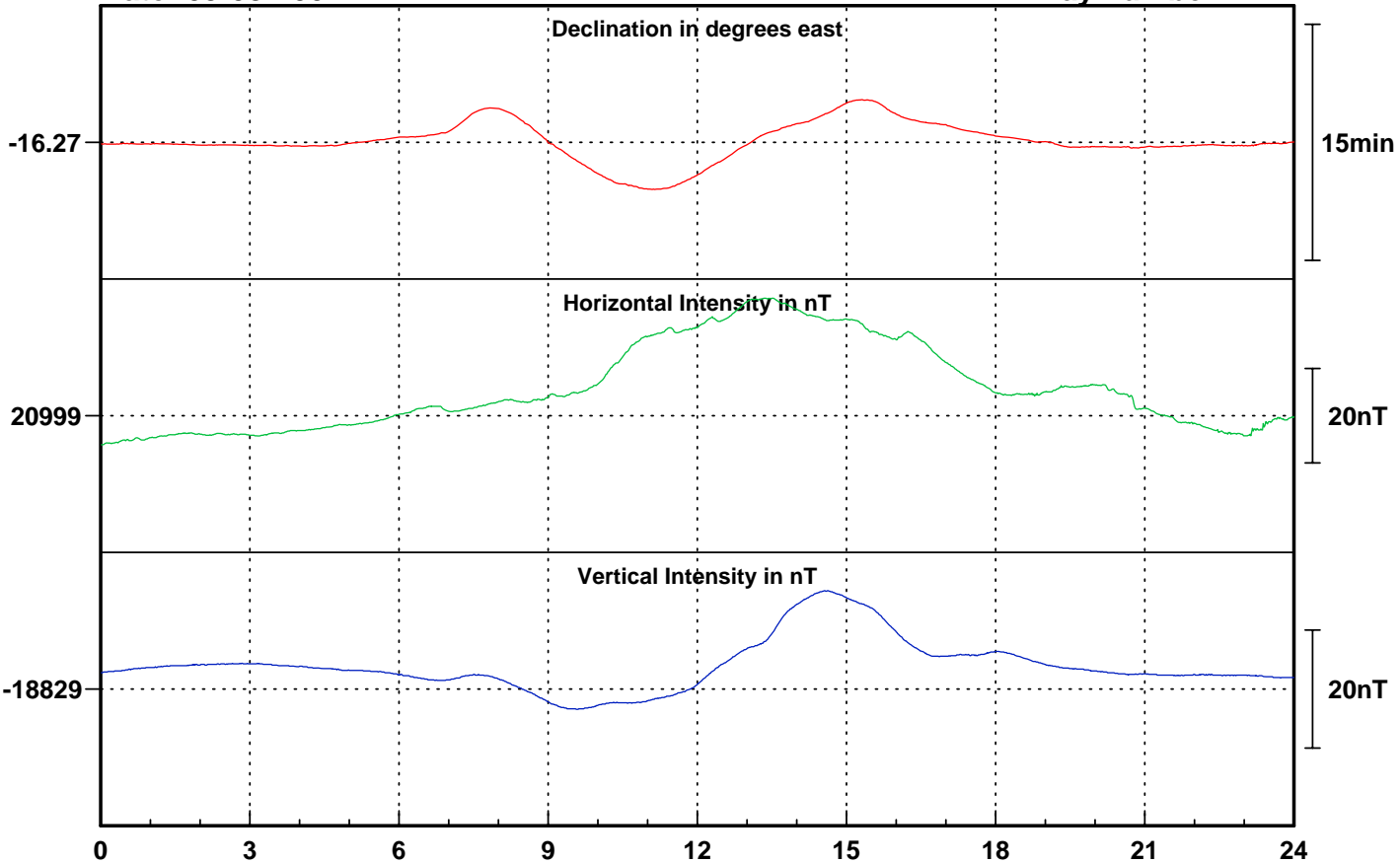
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Date: 05-08-2007

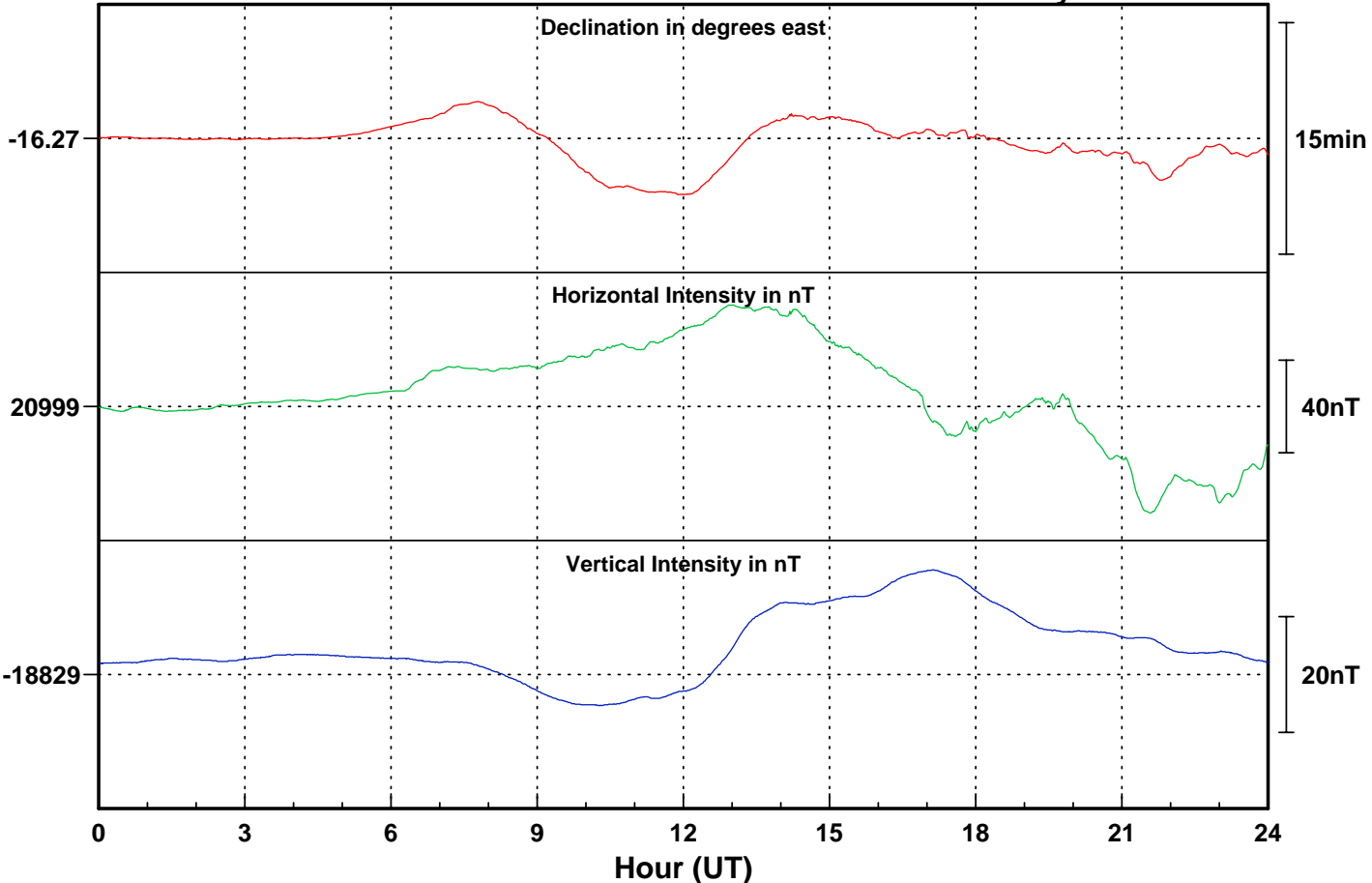
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Day number: 217



Date: 06-08-2007

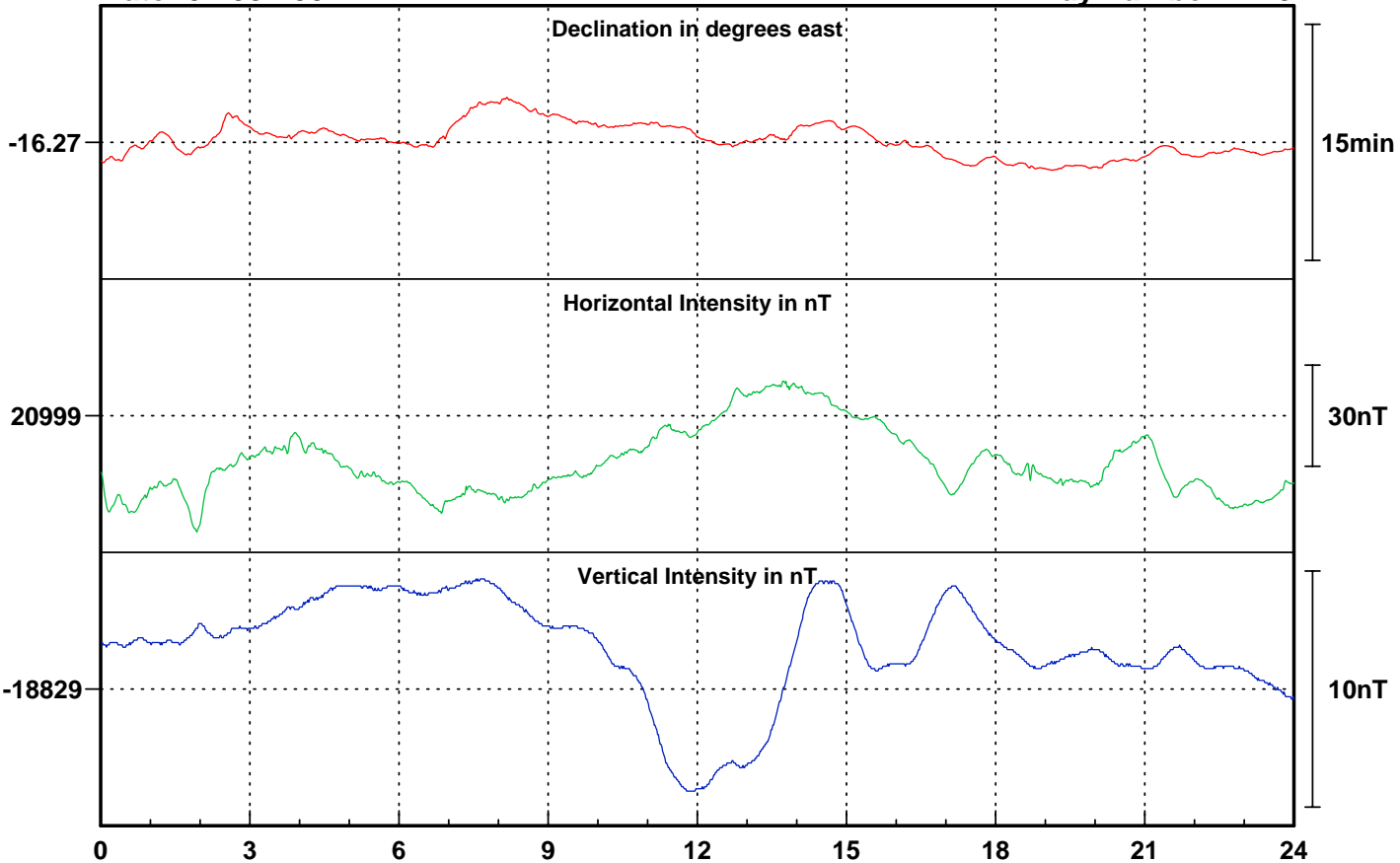
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Date: 07-08-2007

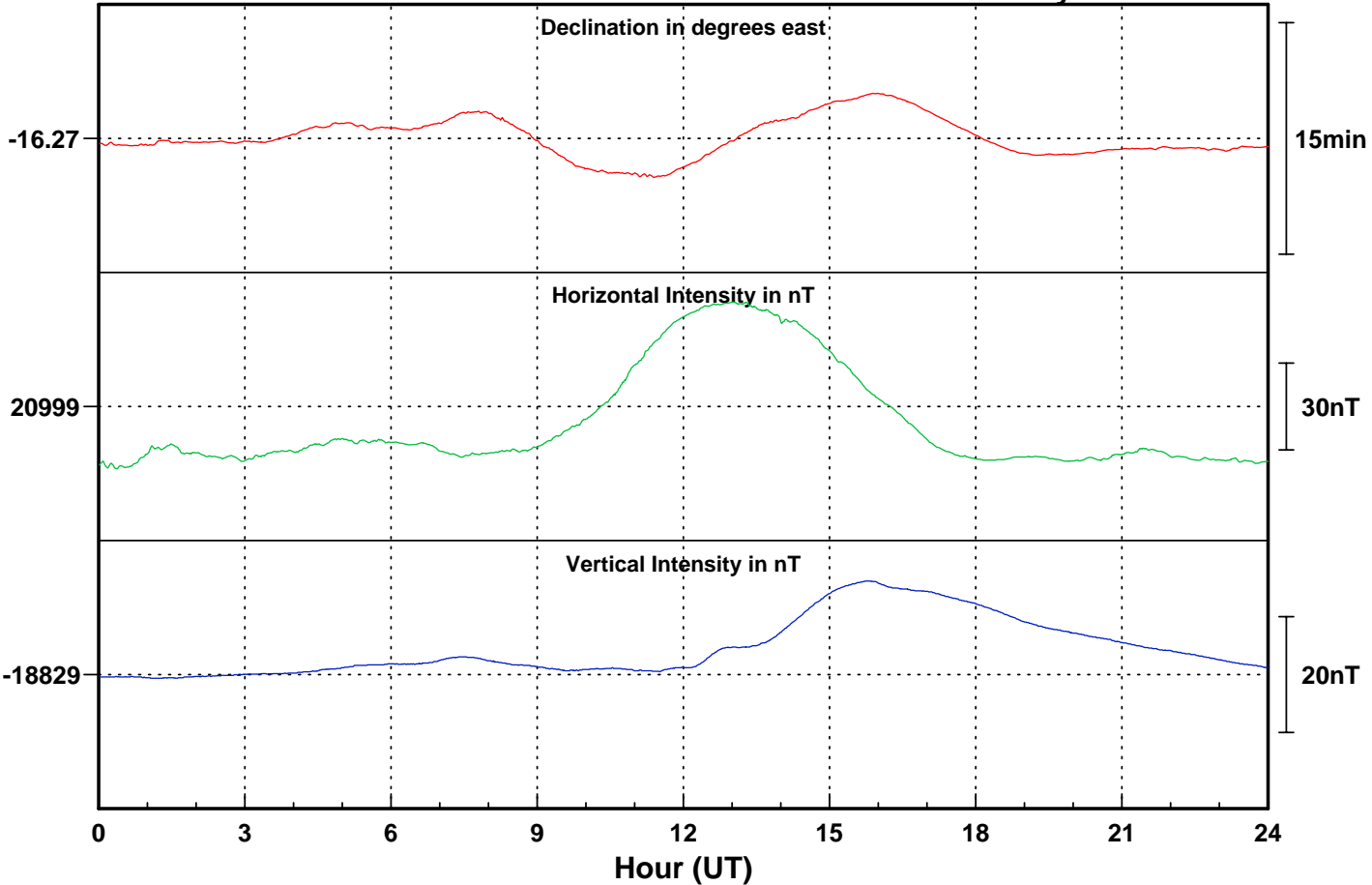
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Day number: 219



Date: 08-08-2007

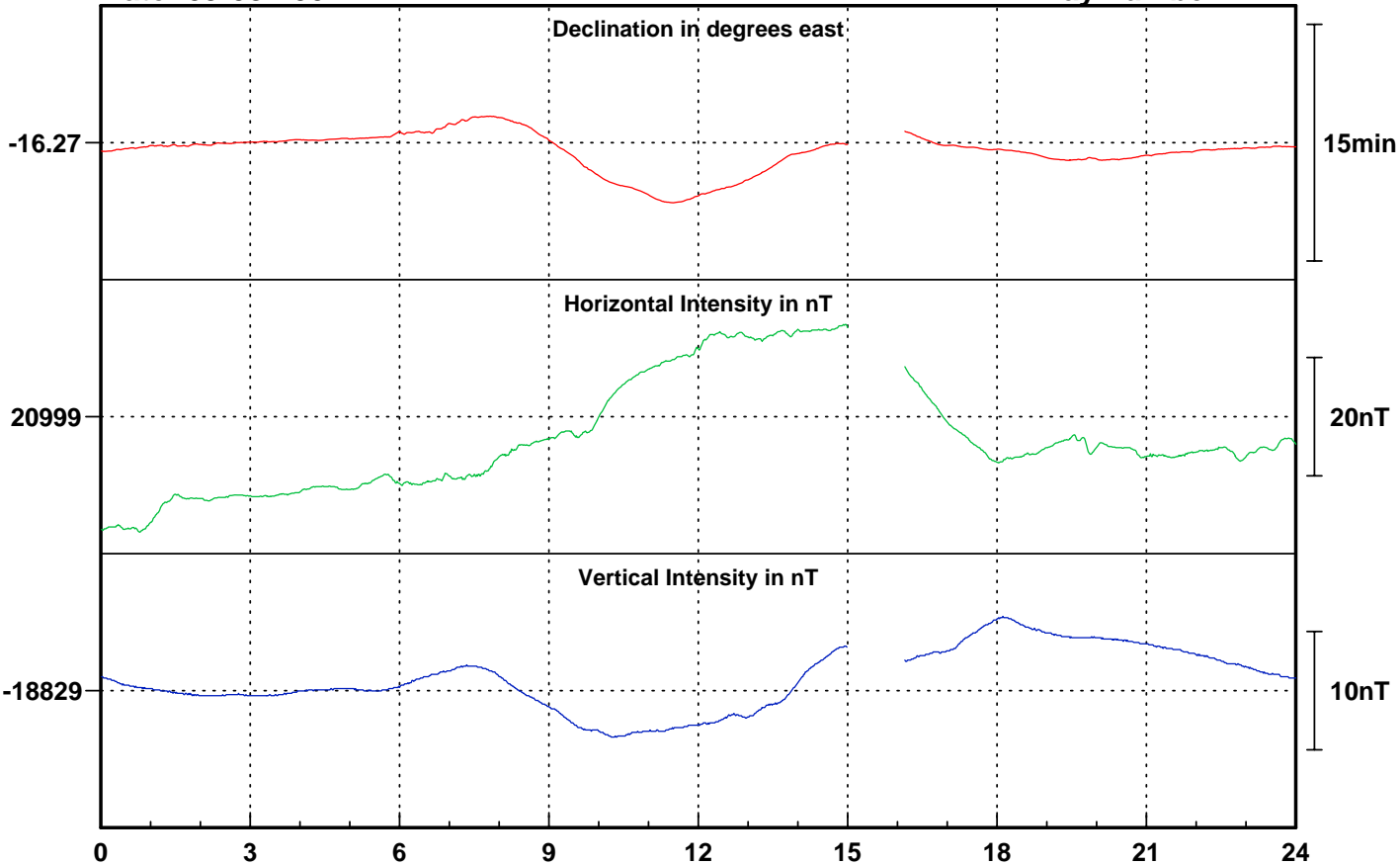
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Date: 09-08-2007

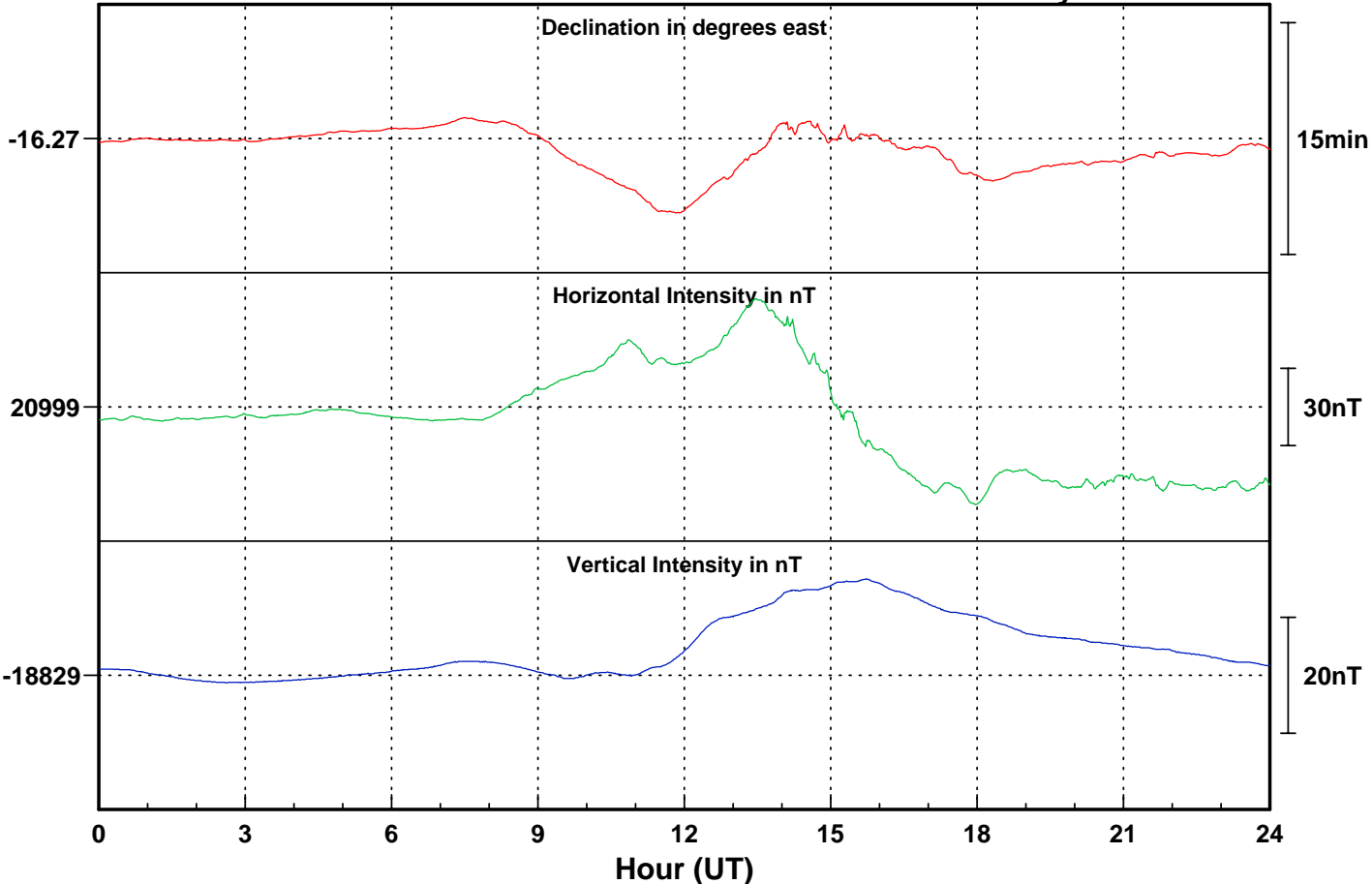
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Day number: 221



Date: 10-08-2007

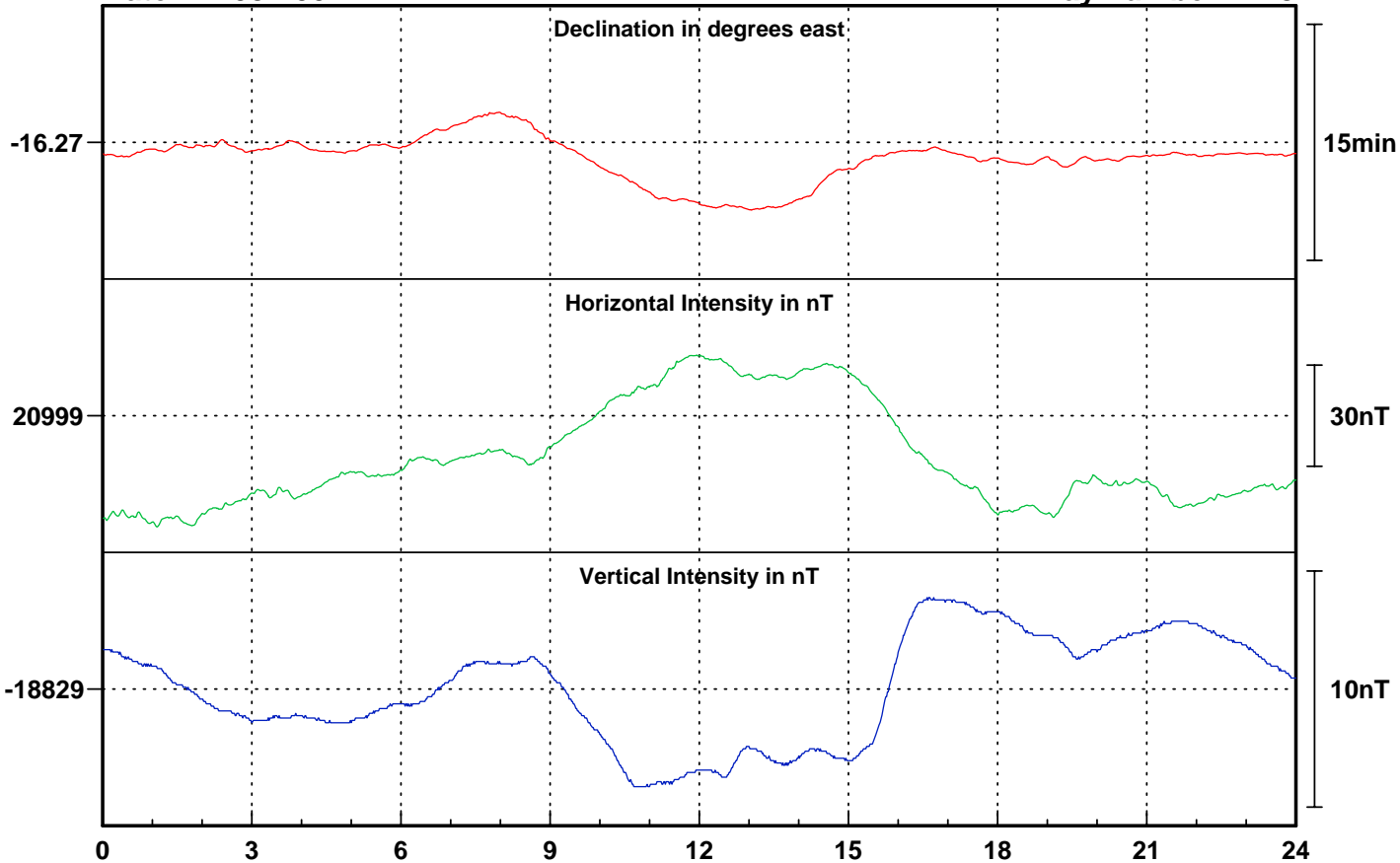
Day number: 222



Date: 11-08-2007

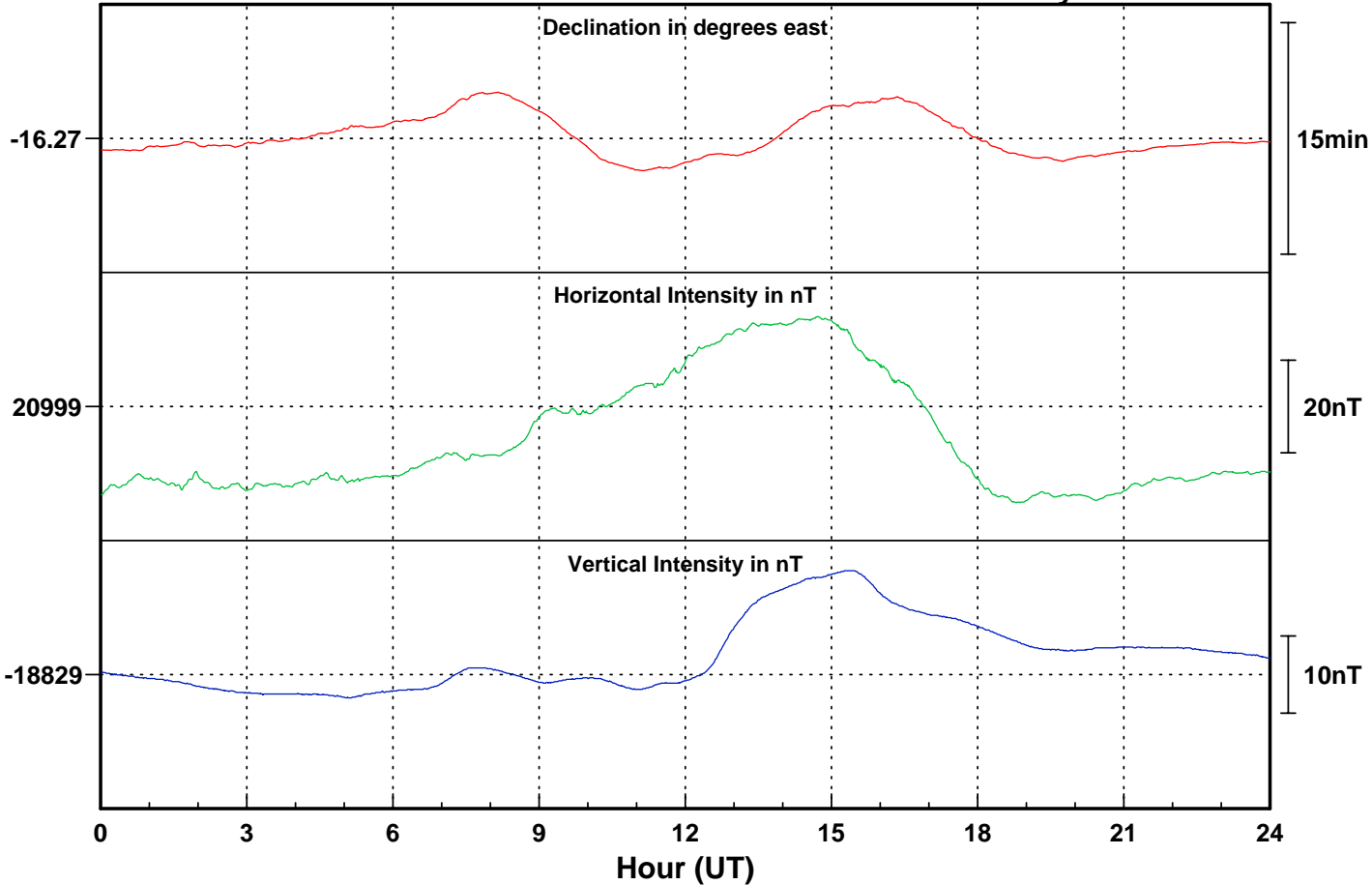
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Day number: 223



Date: 12-08-2007

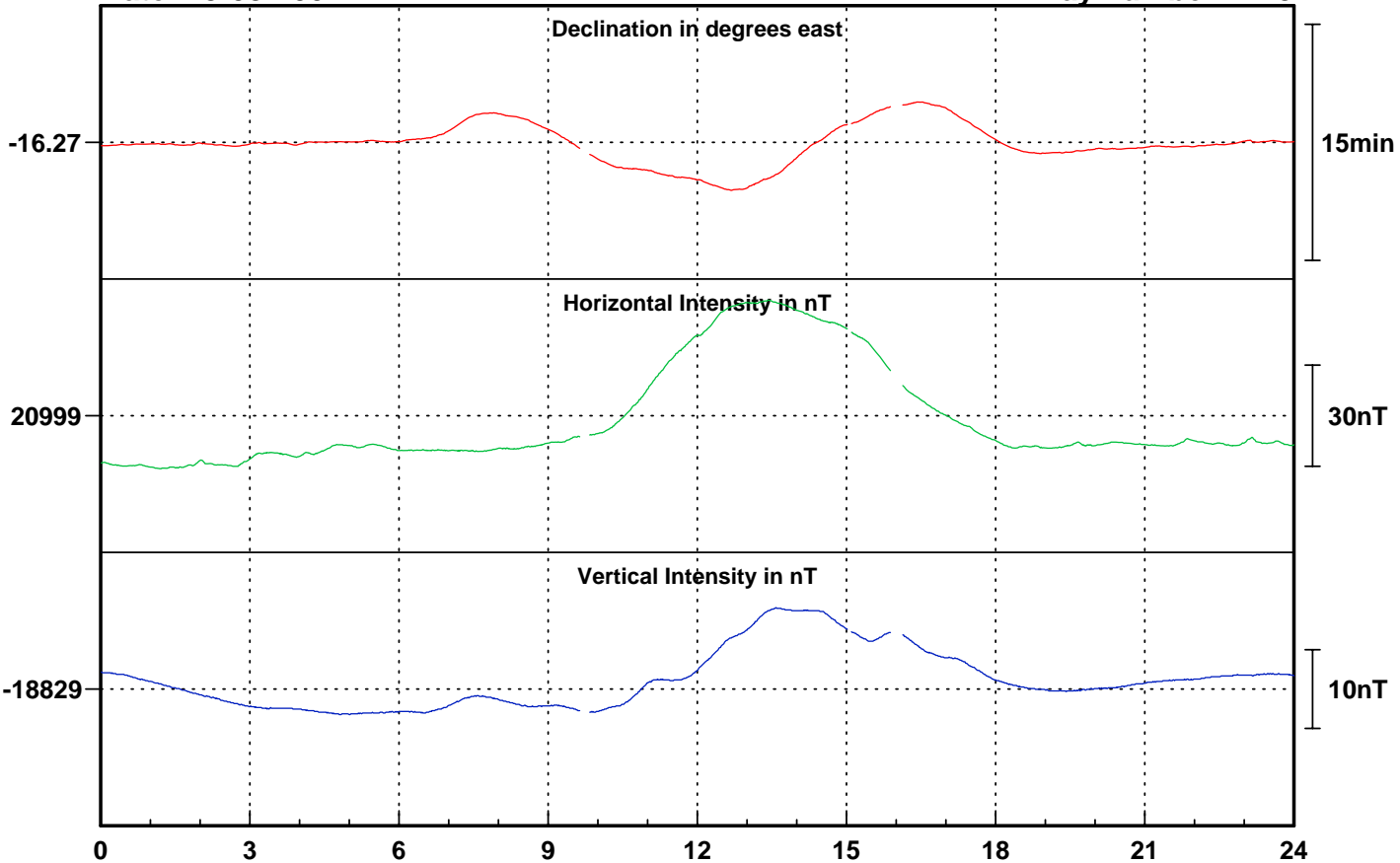
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Date: 13-08-2007

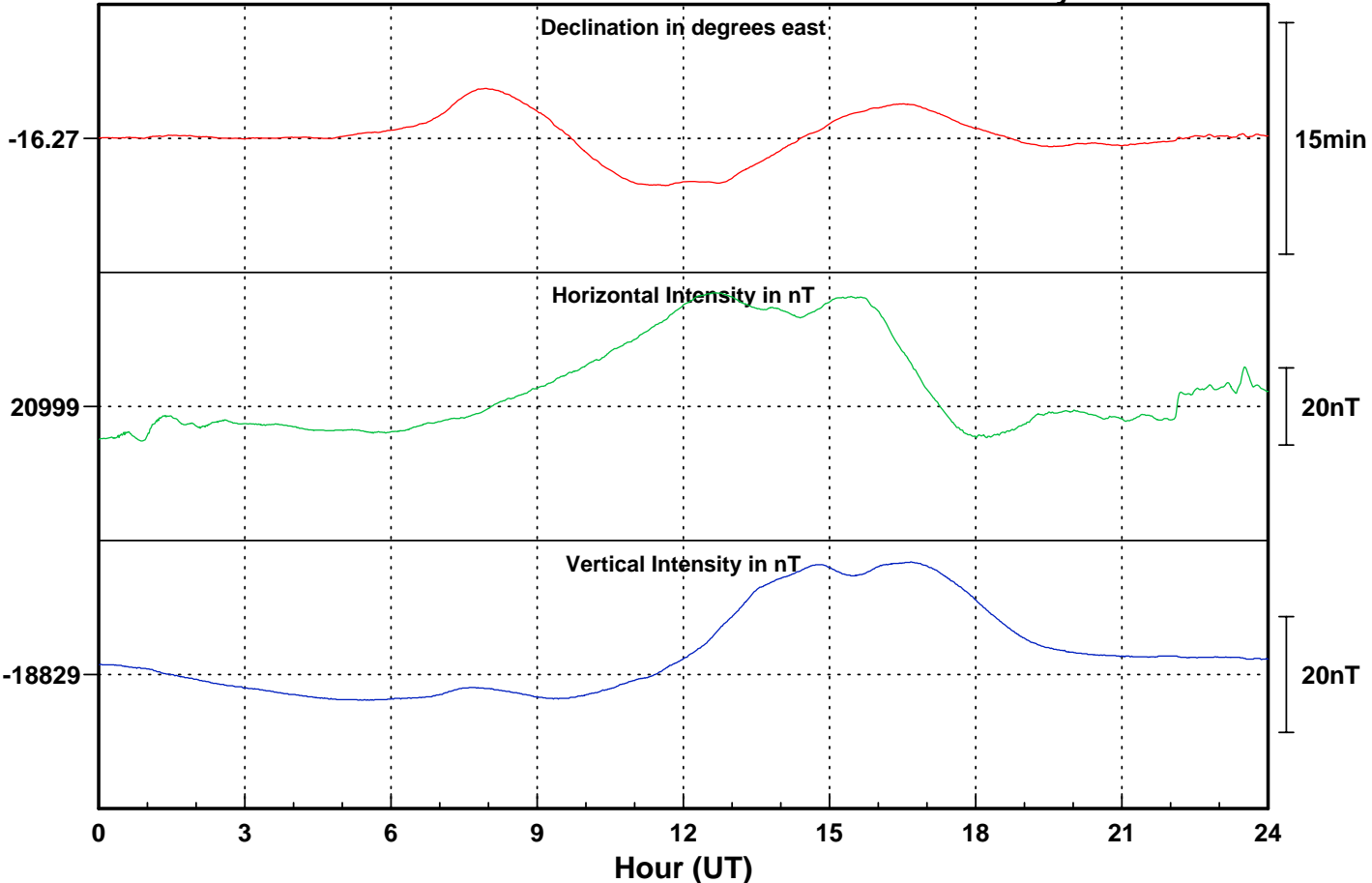
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Day number: 225



Date: 14-08-2007

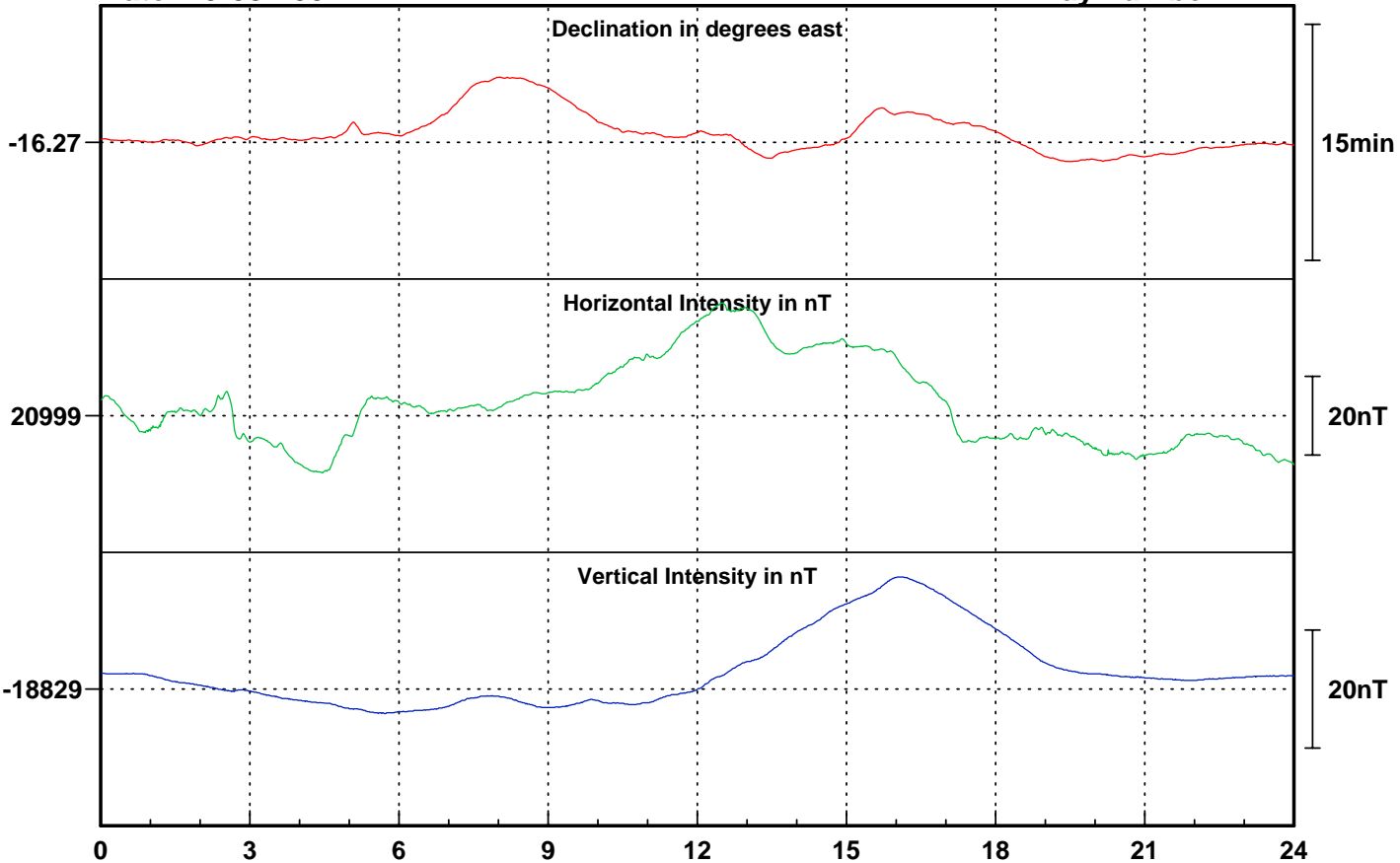
Day number: 226



Date: 15-08-2007

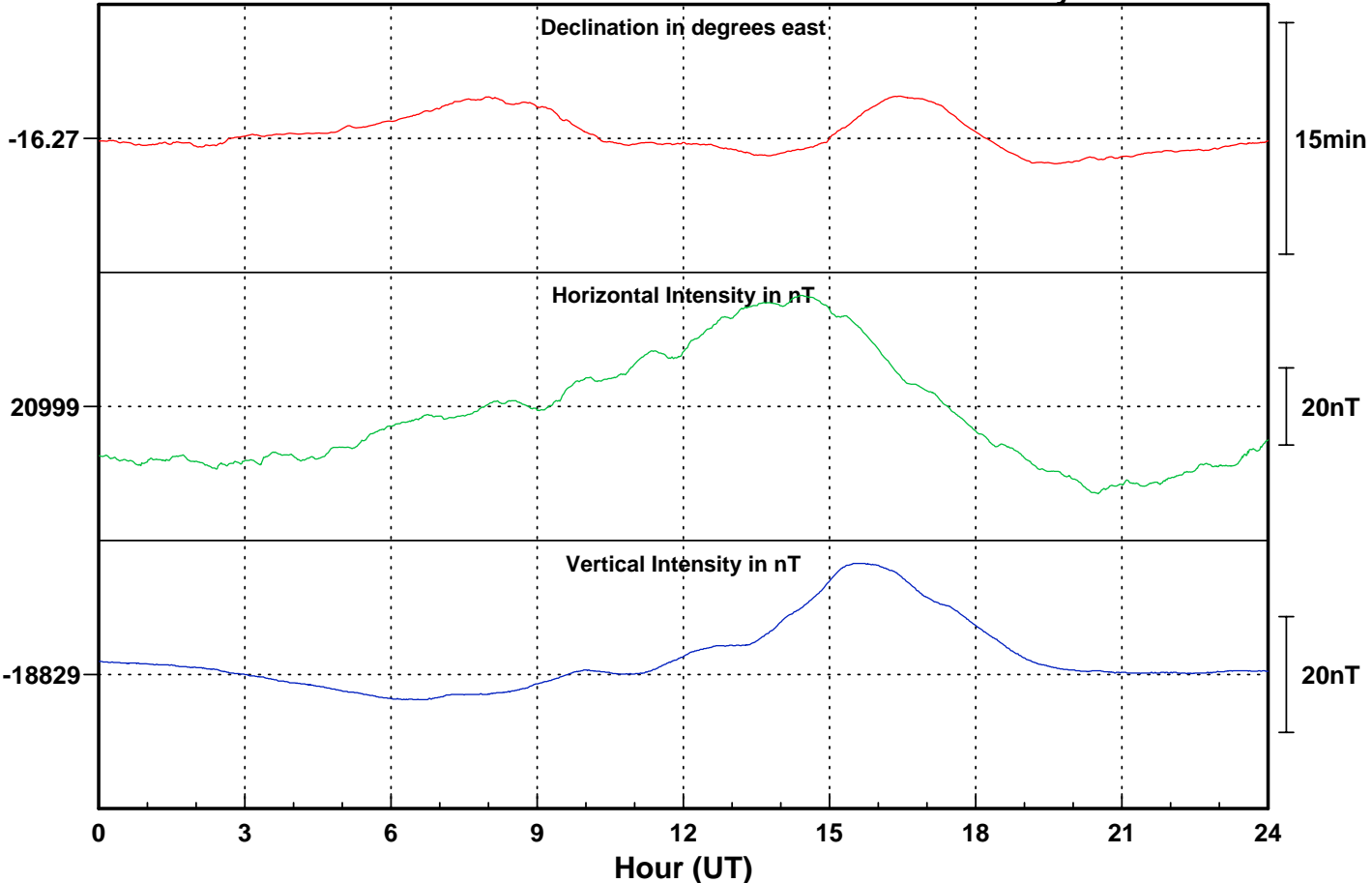
# Ascension Island

Day number: 227



Date: 16-08-2007

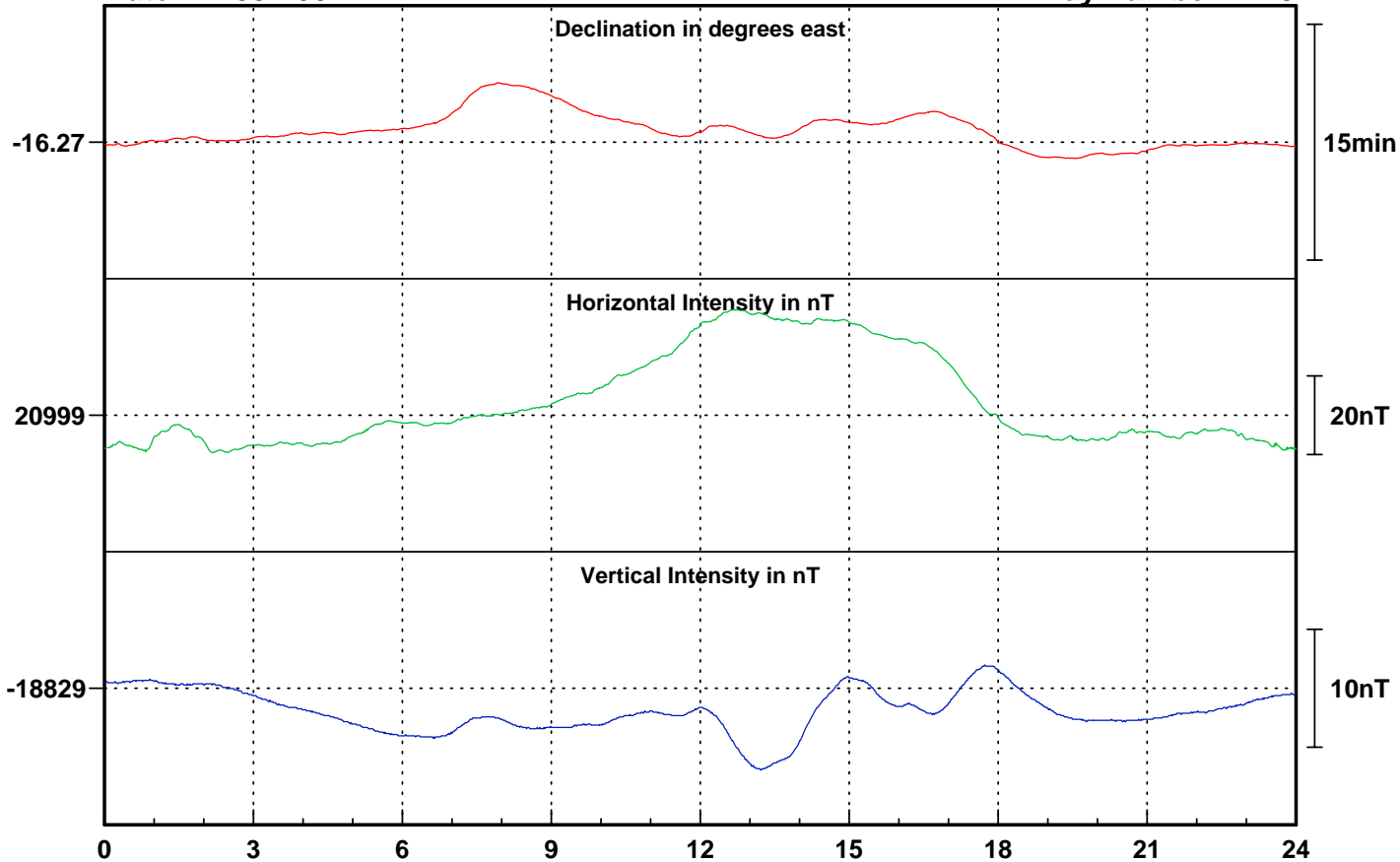
Day number: 228



Date: 17-08-2007

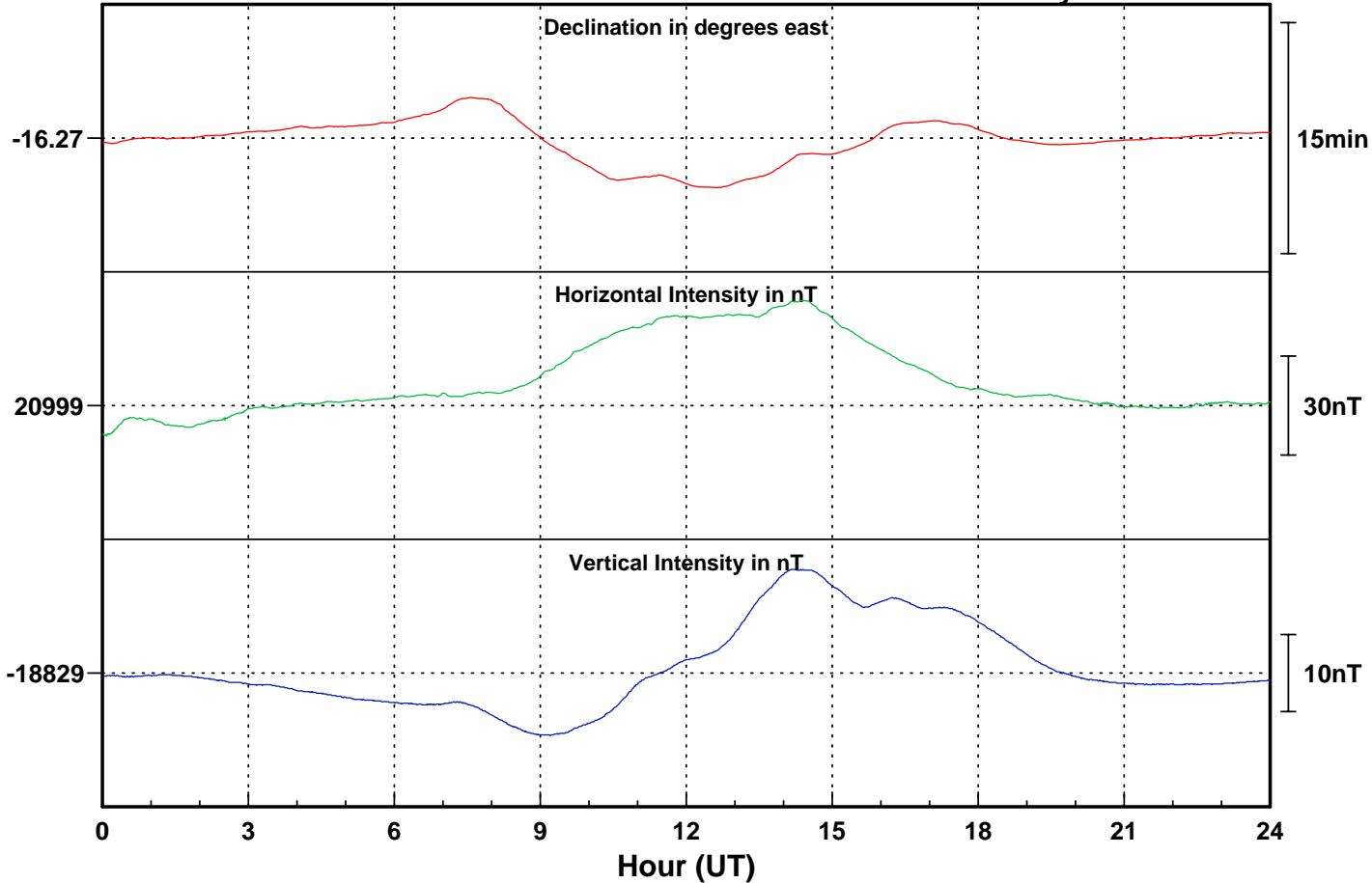
# Ascension Island

Day number: 229



Date: 18-08-2007

Day number: 230

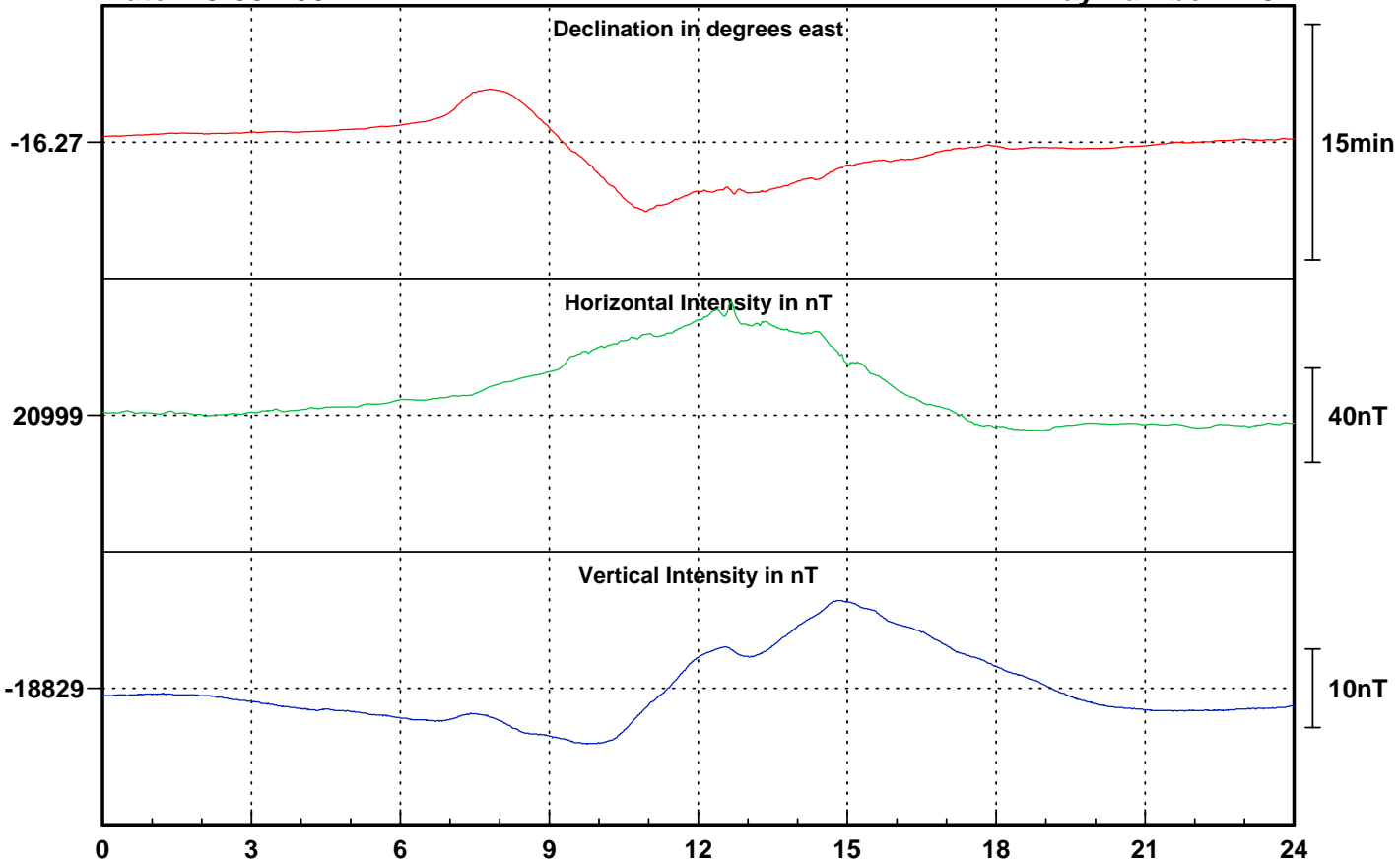




Date: 19-08-2007

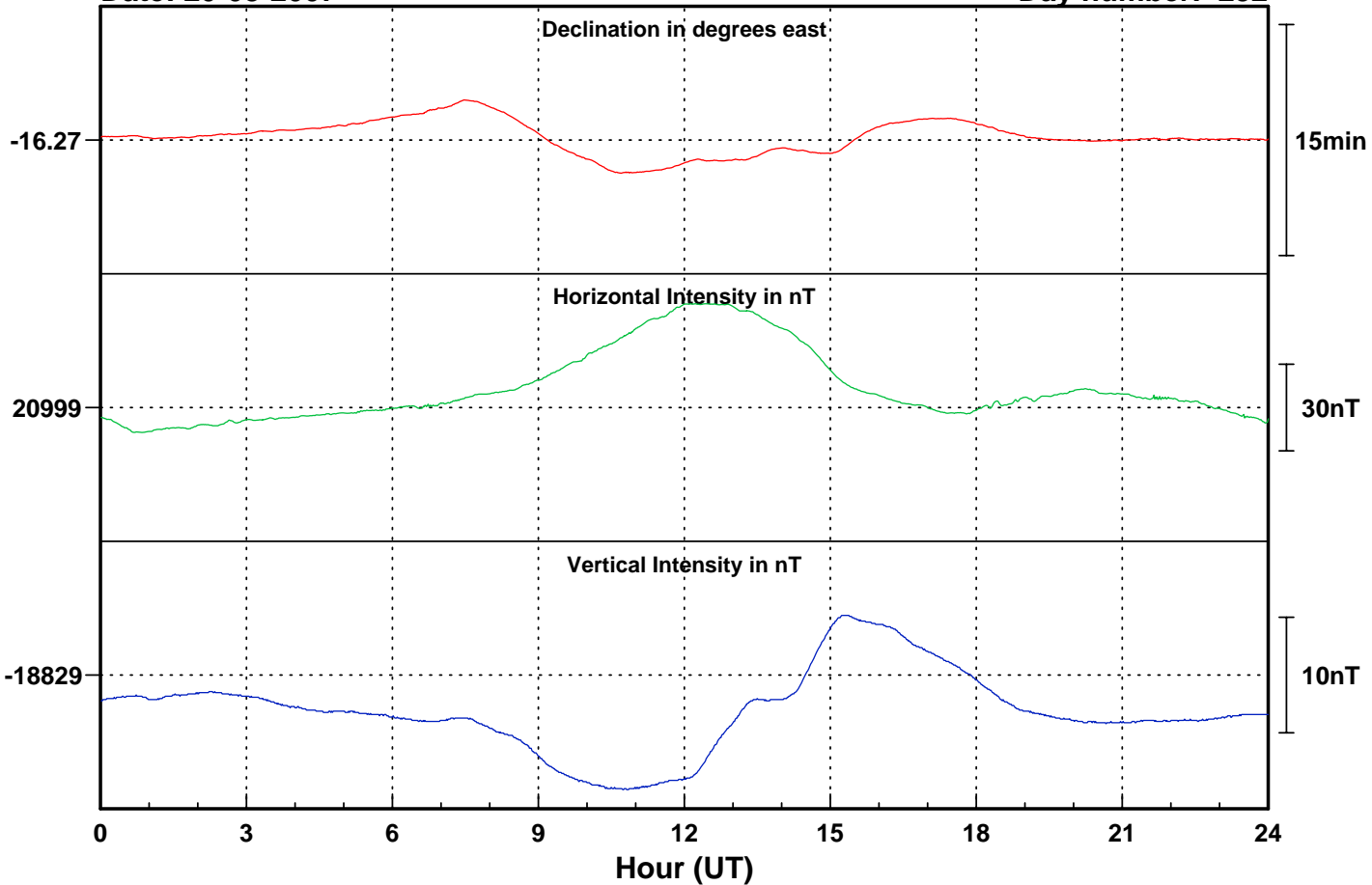
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Day number: 231



Date: 20-08-2007

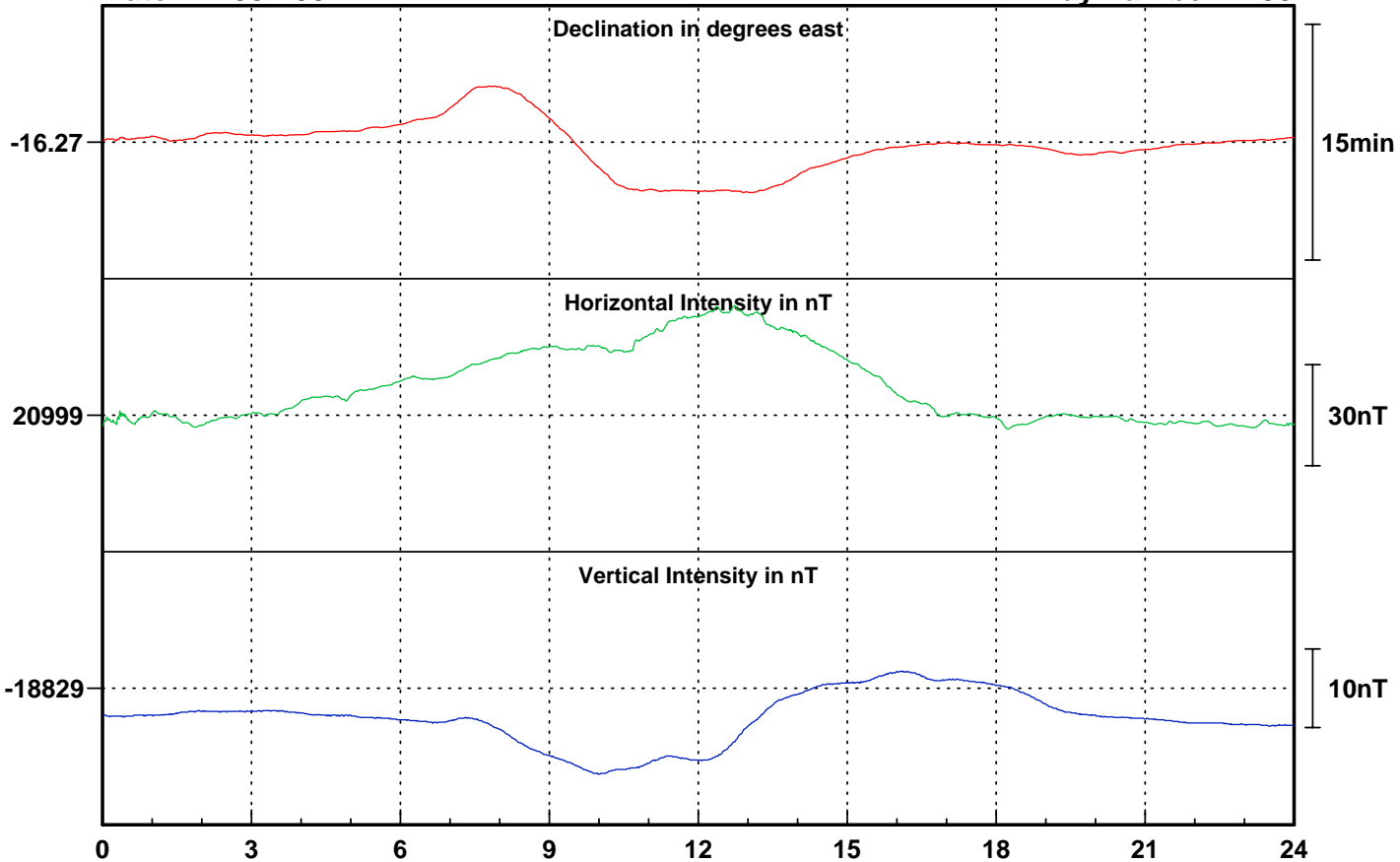
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Date: 21-08-2007

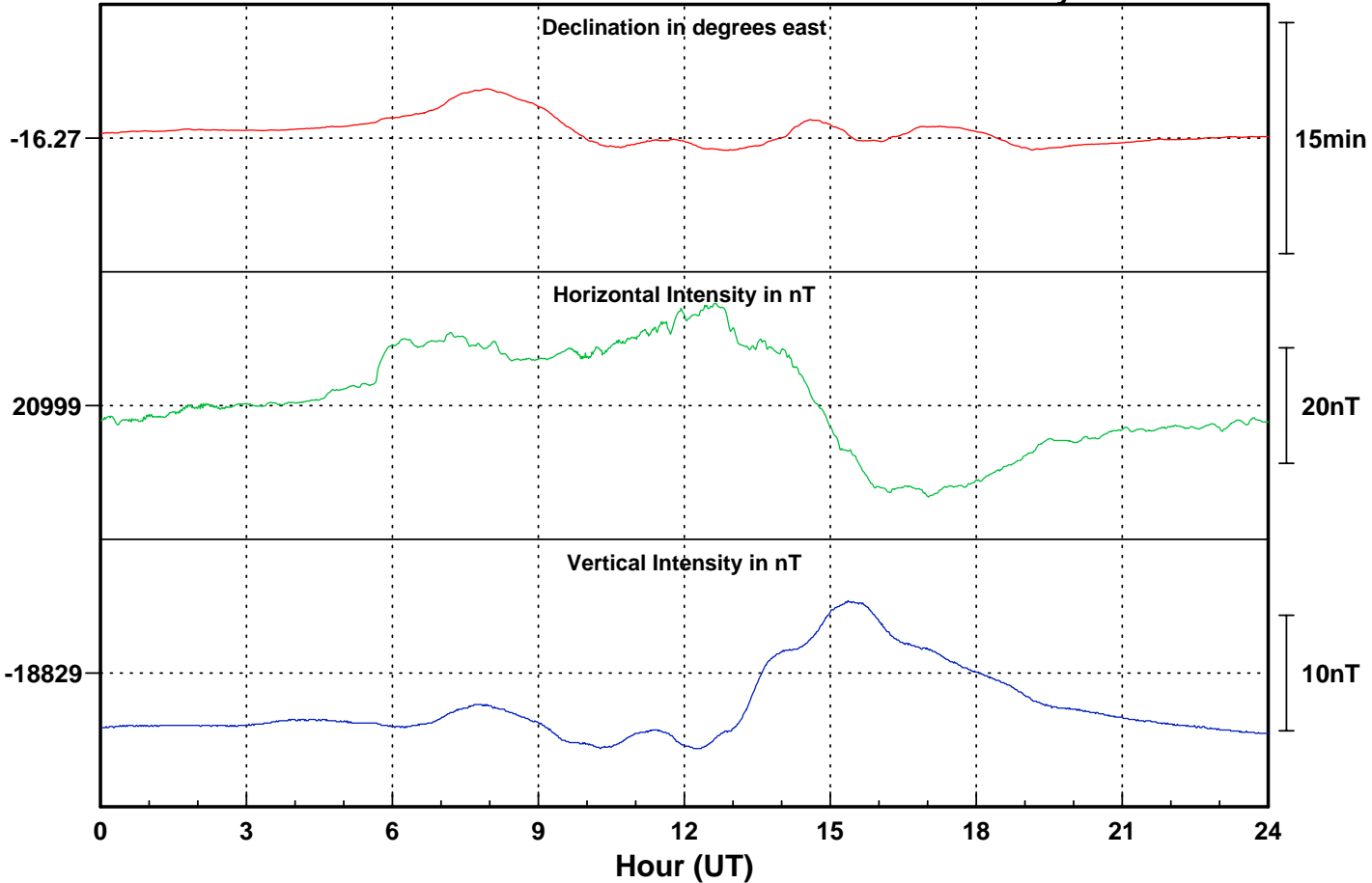
# Ascension Island

Day number: 233



Date: 22-08-2007

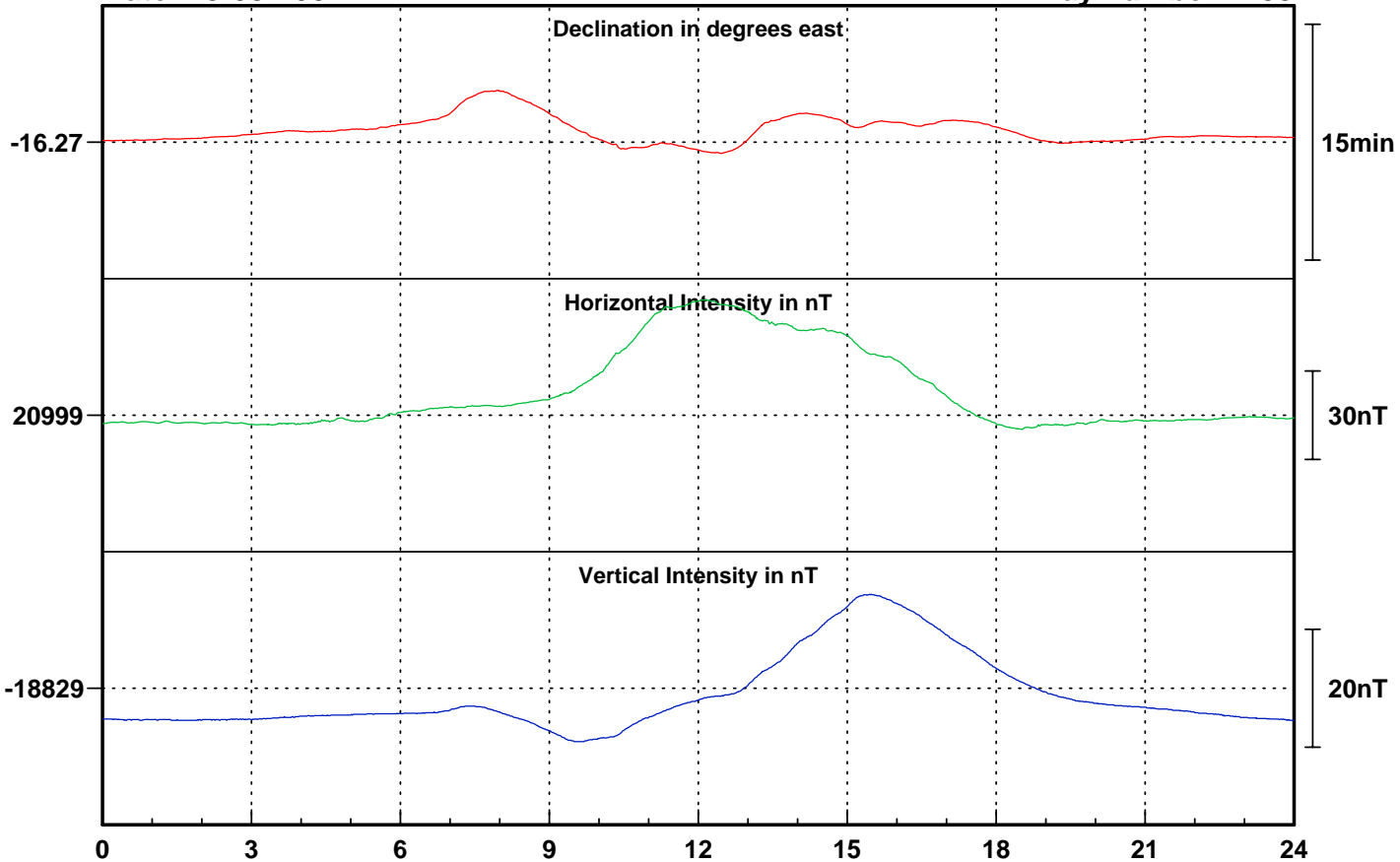
Day number: 234



Date: 23-08-2007

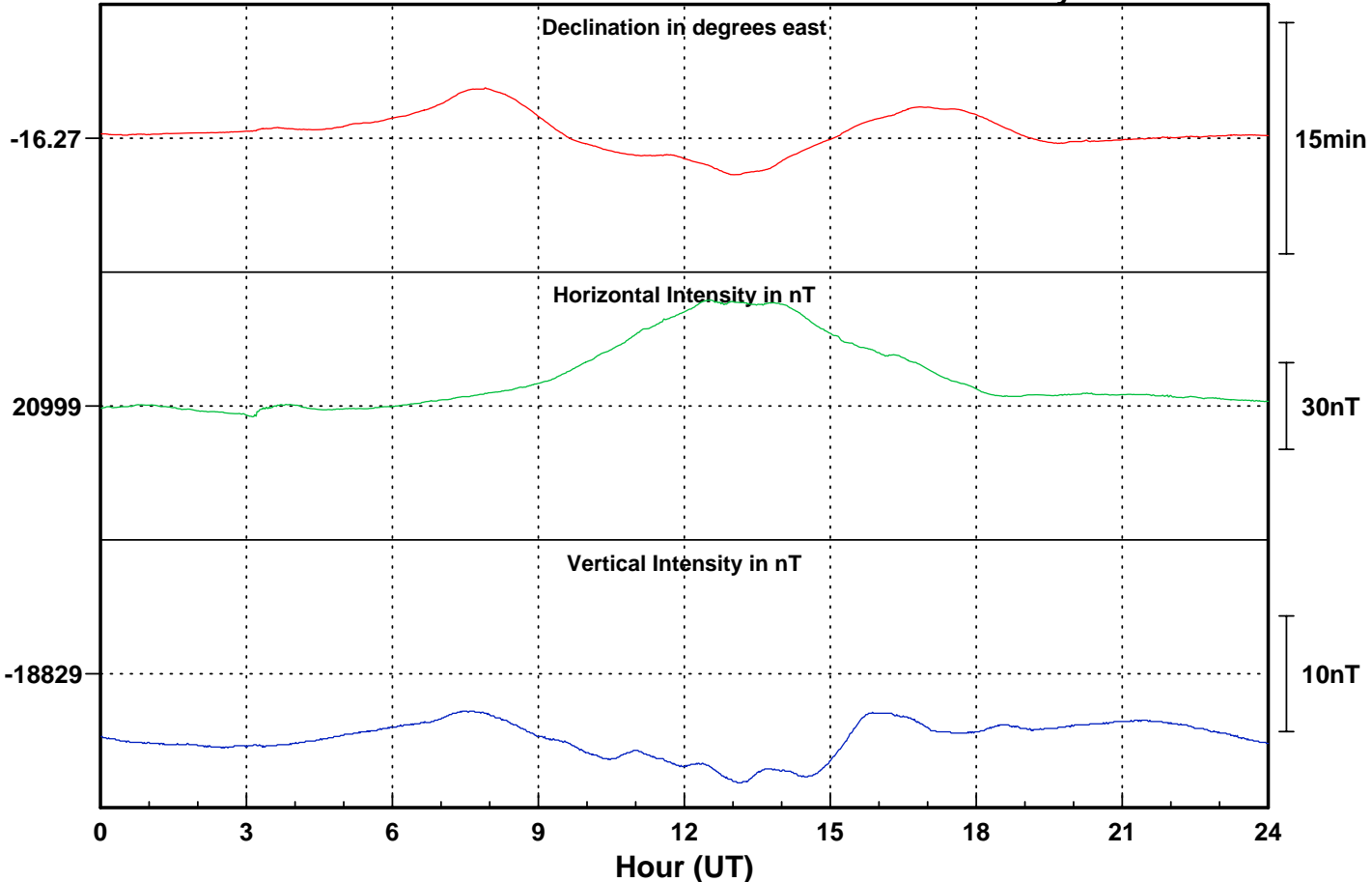
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Day number: 235



Date: 24-08-2007

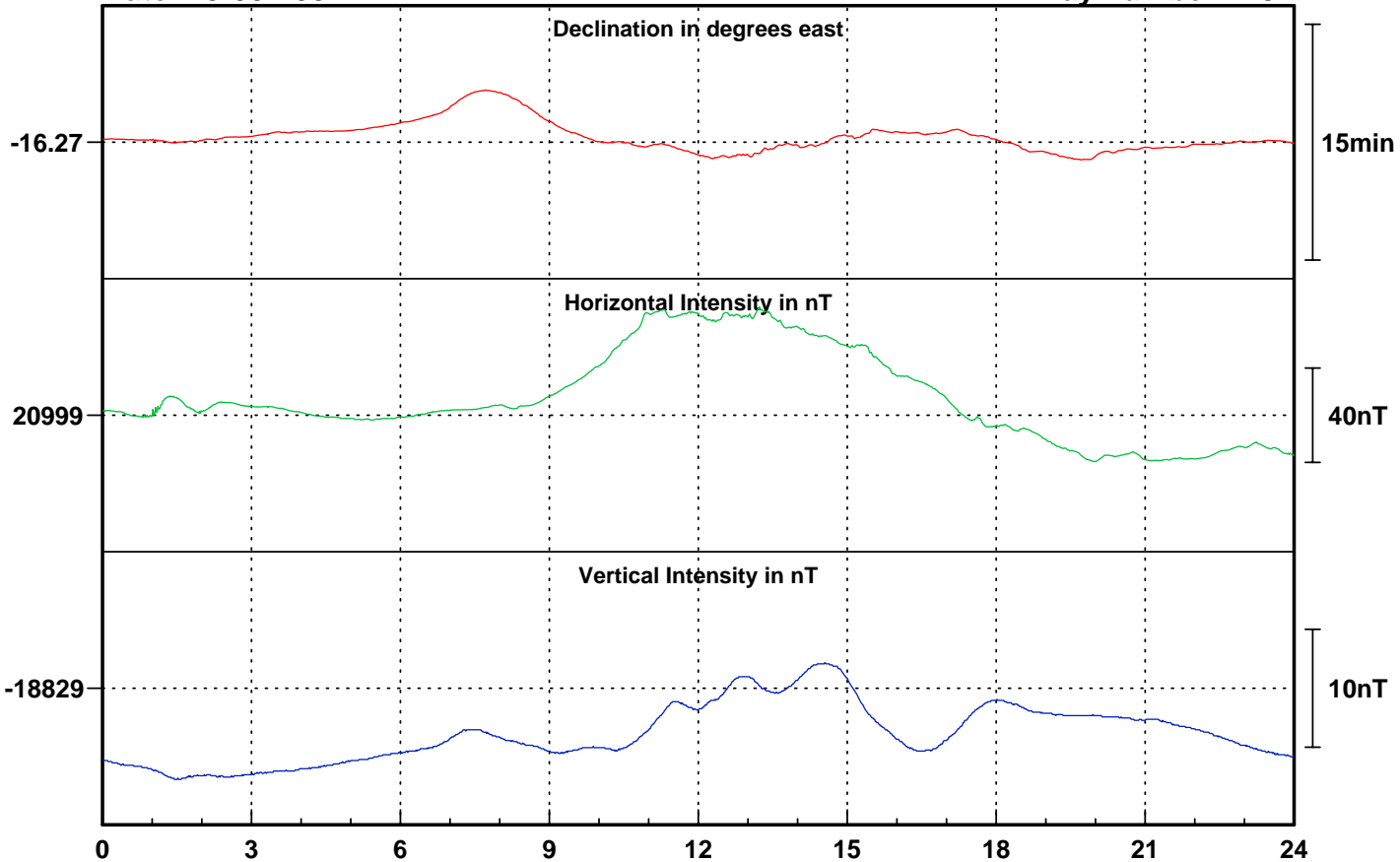
Day number: 236



Date: 25-08-2007

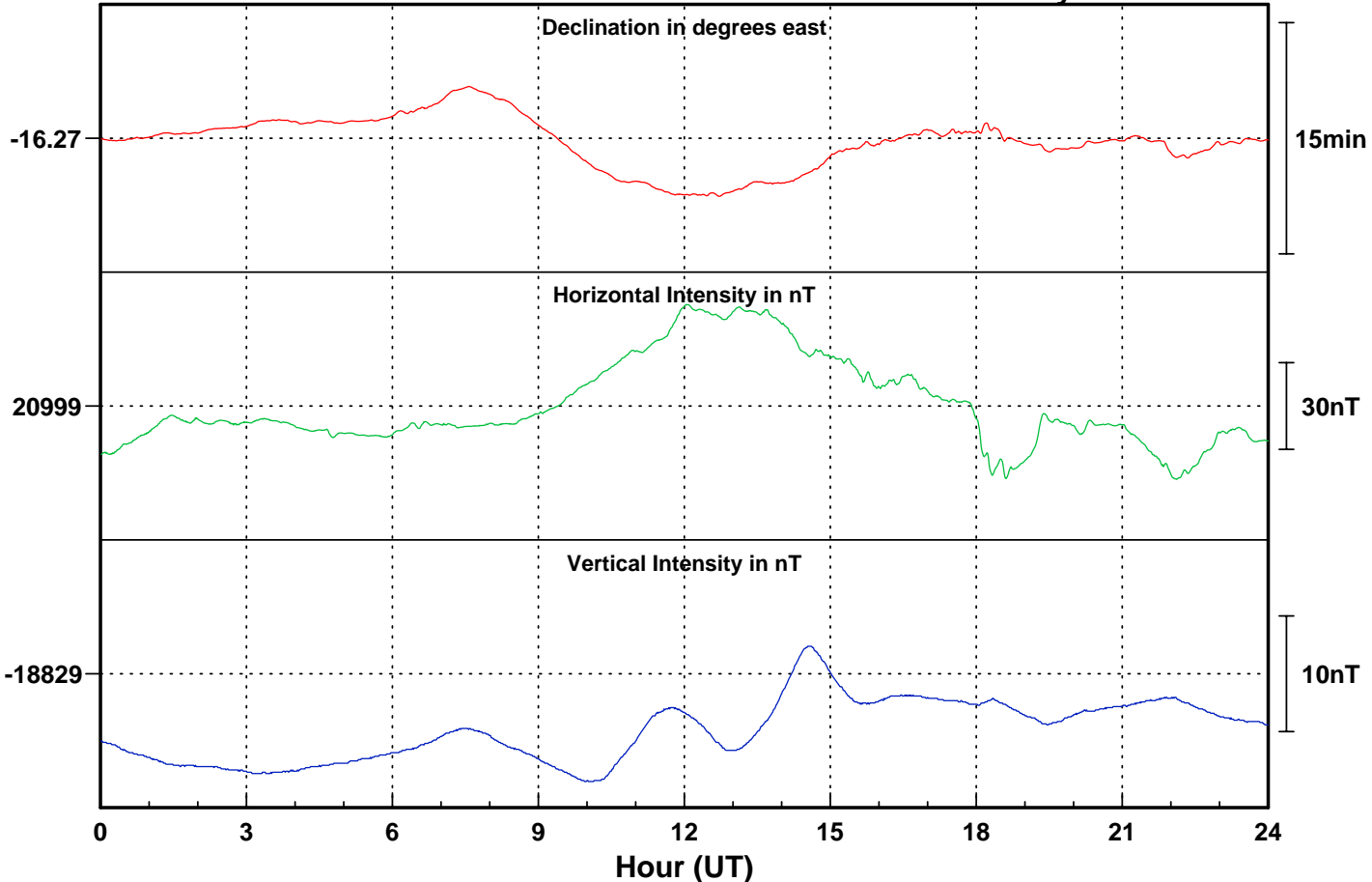
# Ascension Island

Day number: 237



Date: 26-08-2007

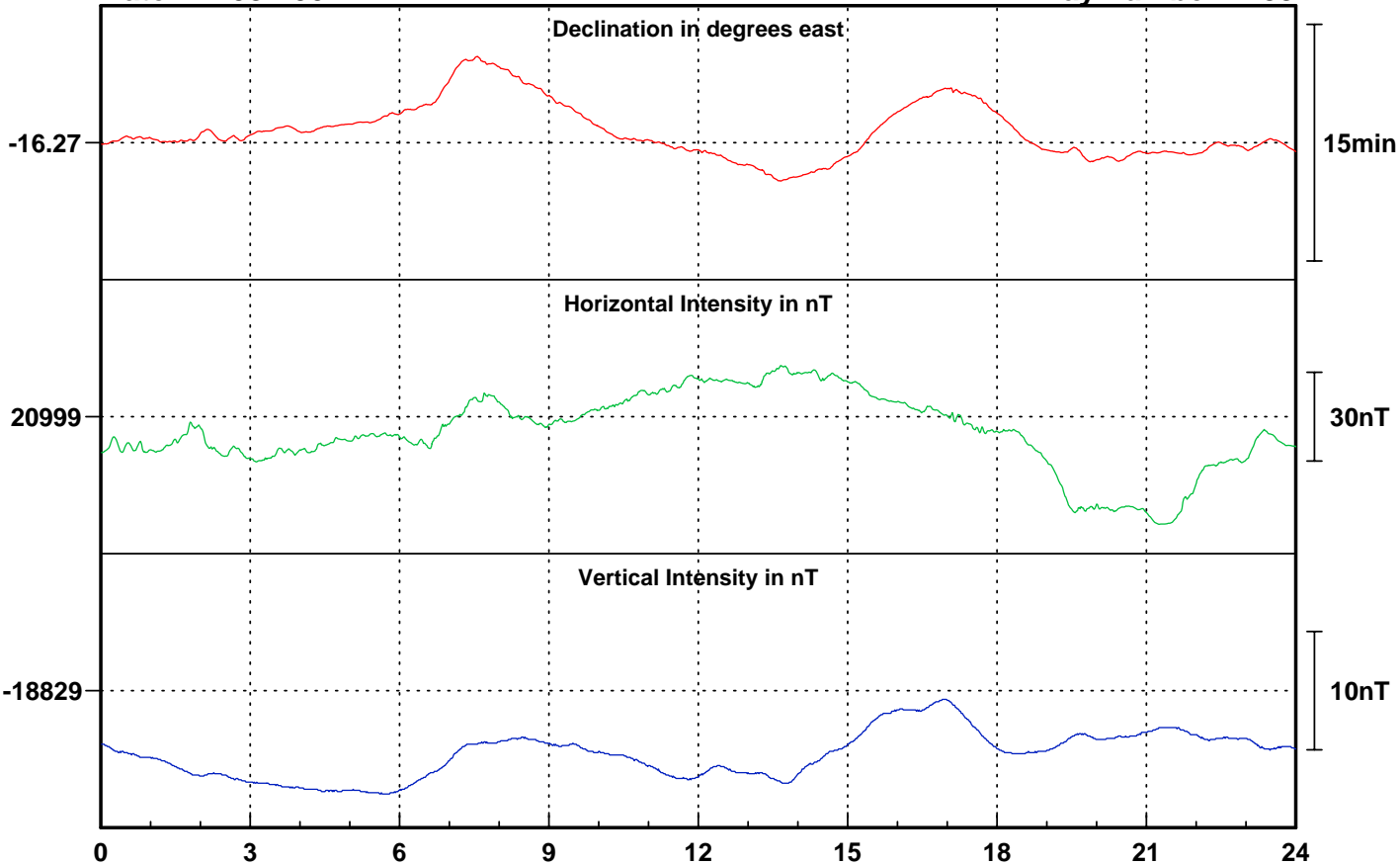
Day number: 238



Date: 27-08-2007

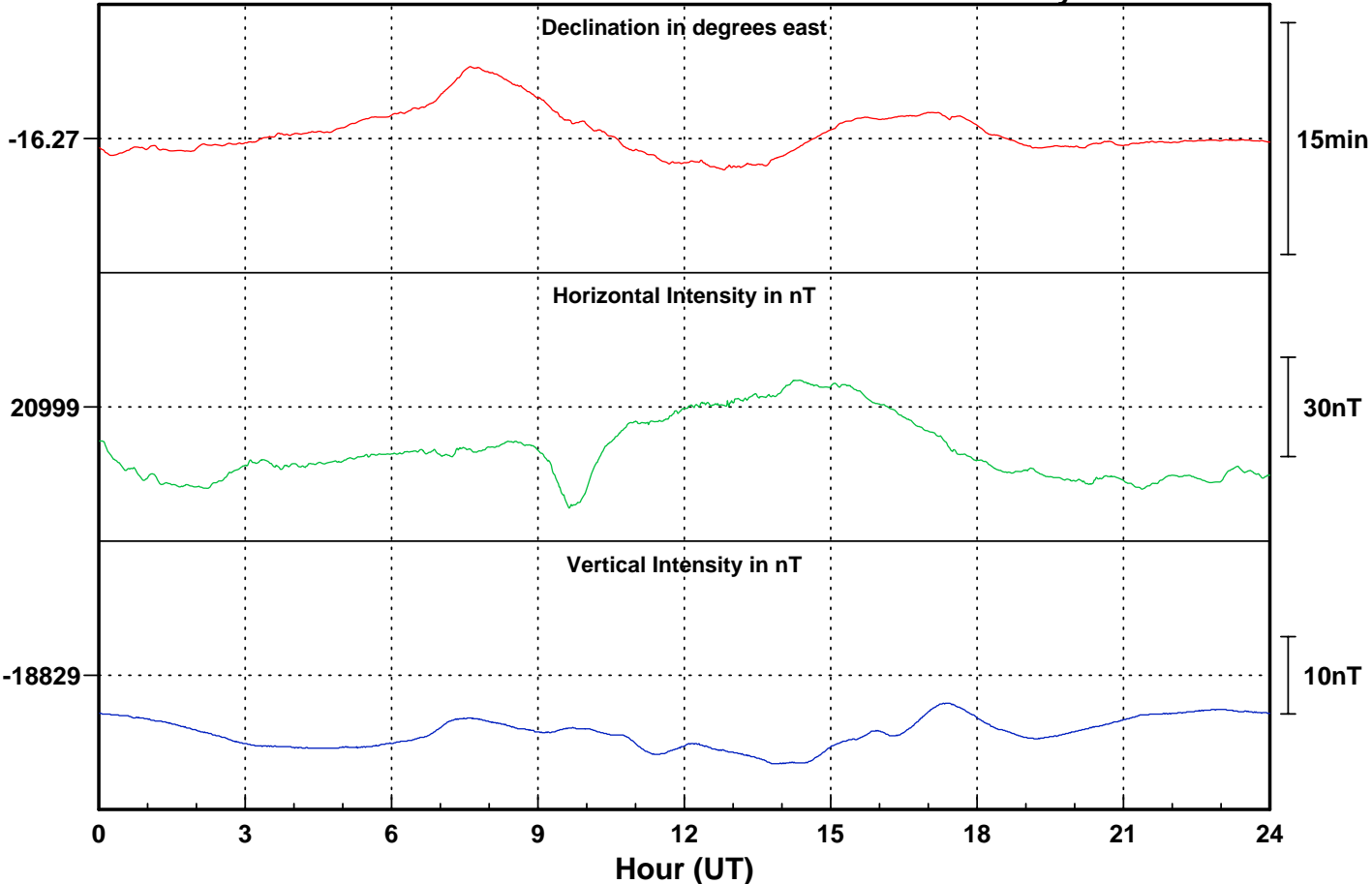
# Ascension Island

Day number: 239



Date: 28-08-2007

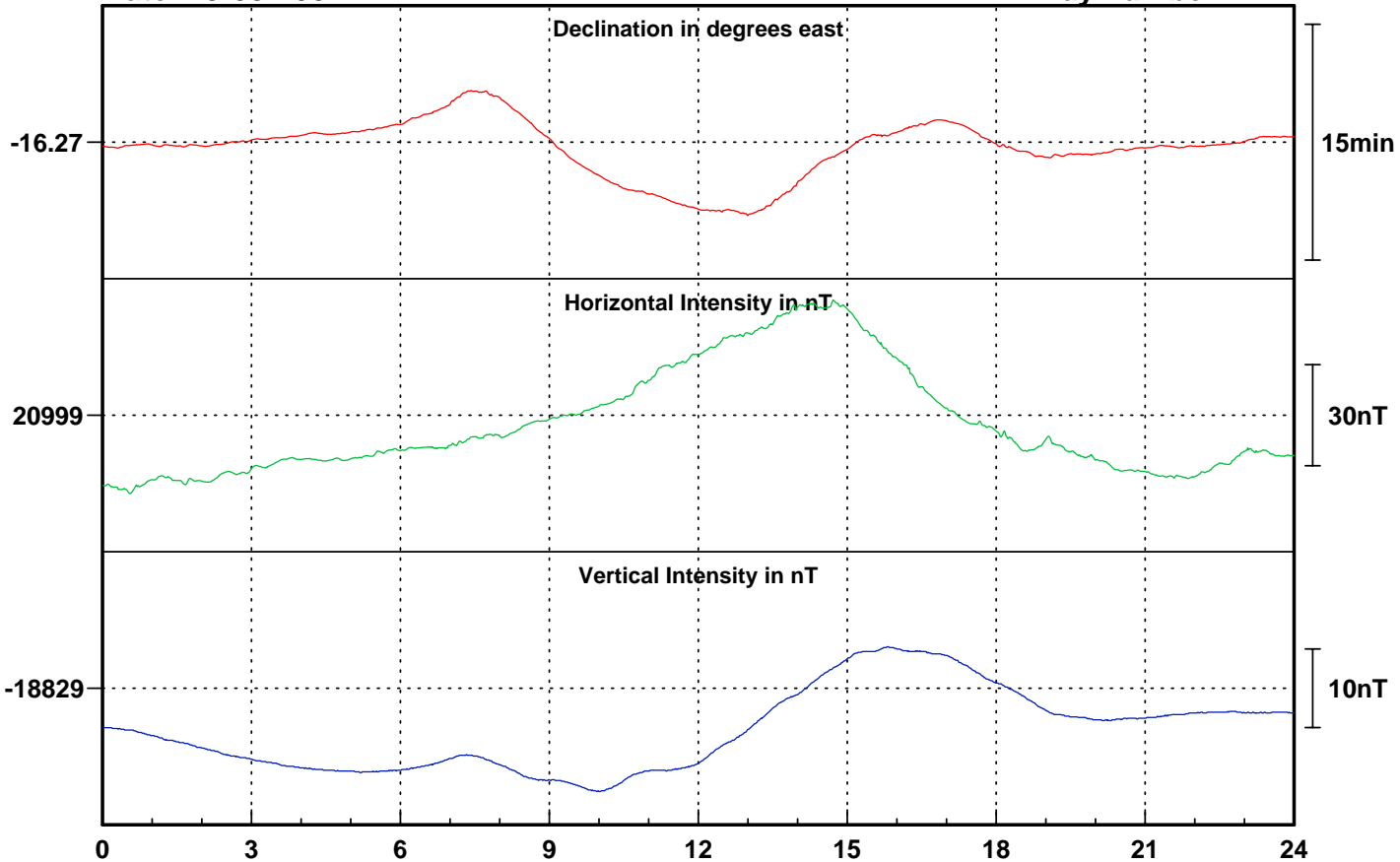
Day number: 240



Date: 29-08-2007

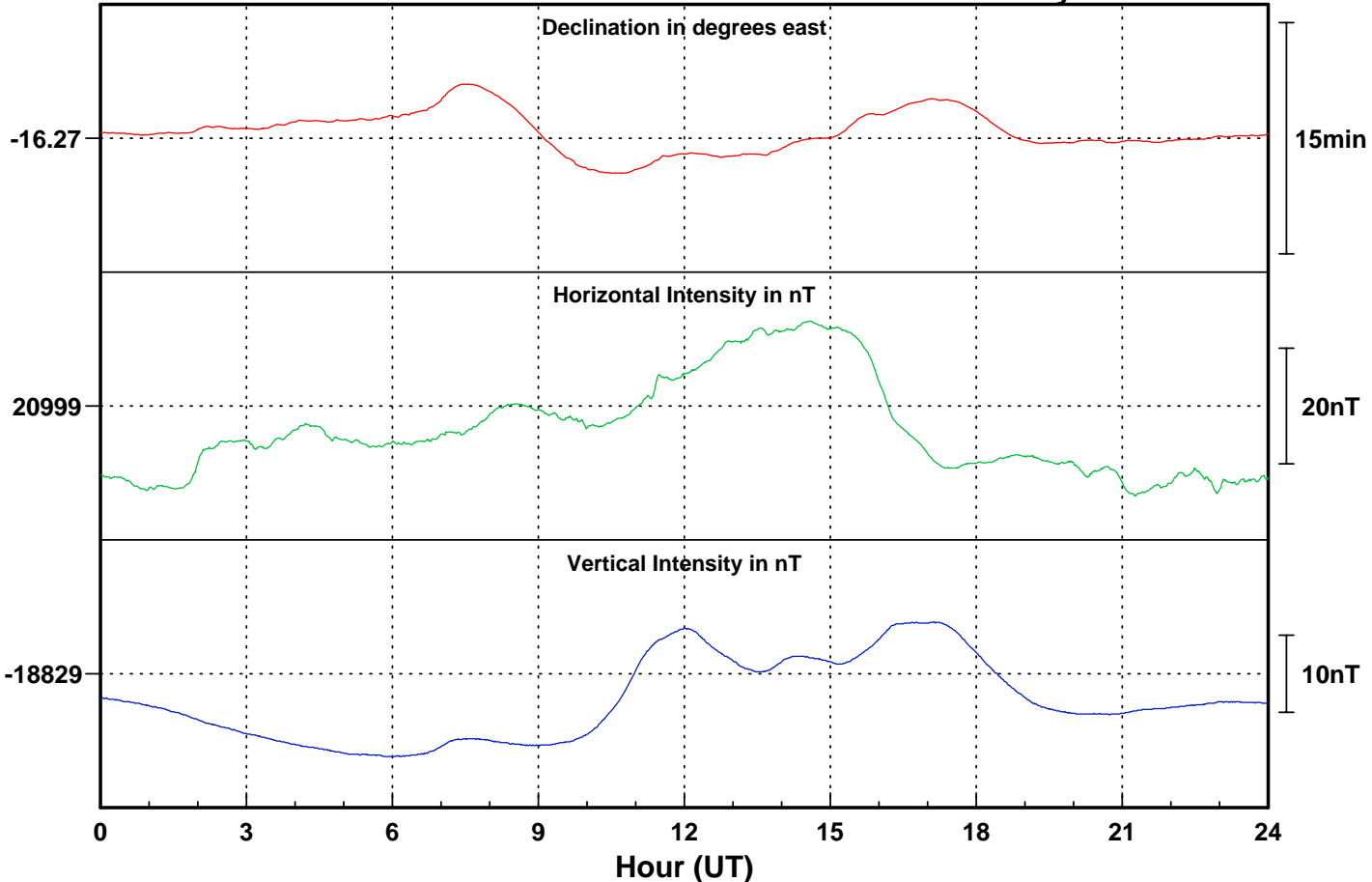
# Ascension Island

Day number: 241



Date: 30-08-2007

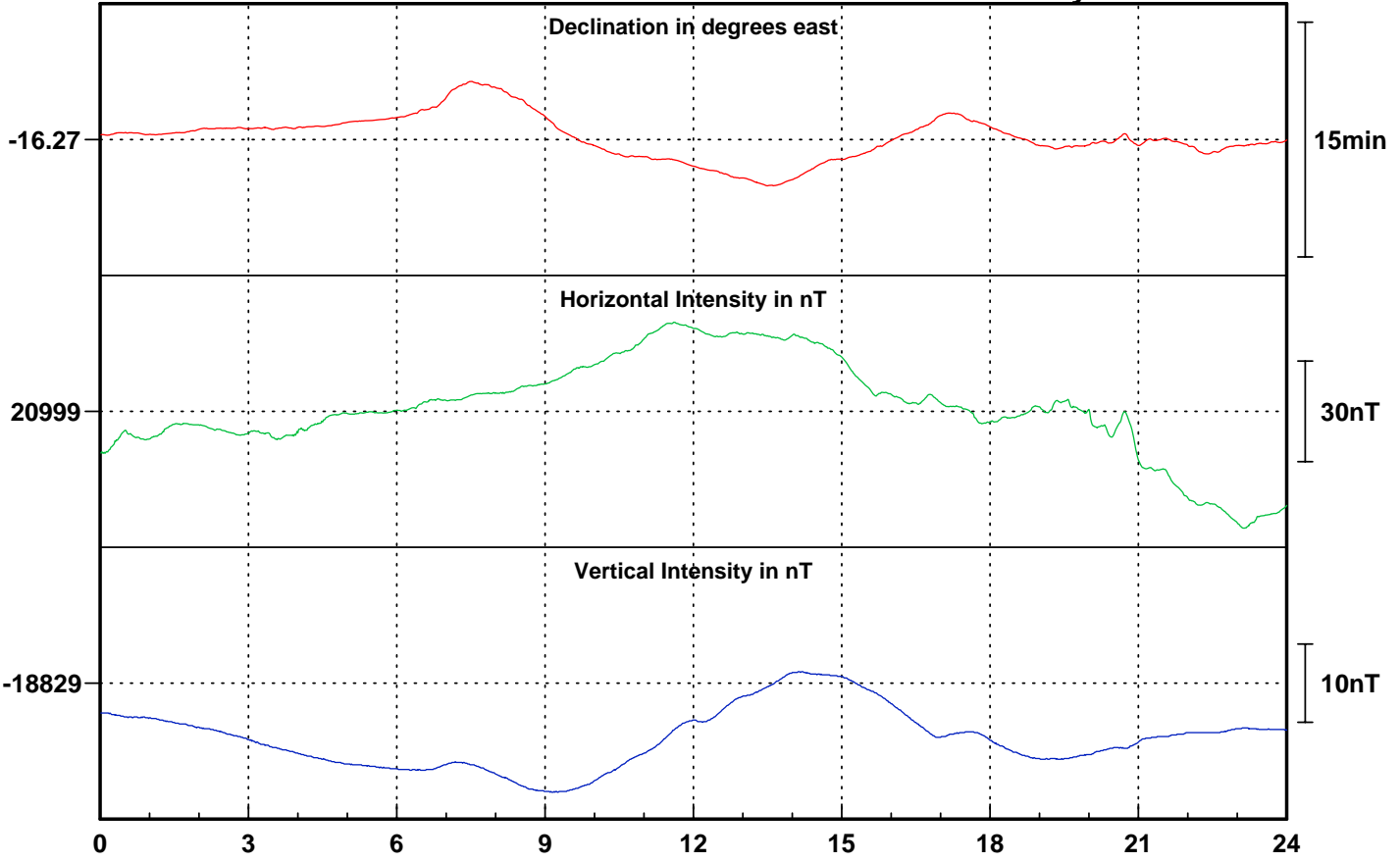
Day number: 242



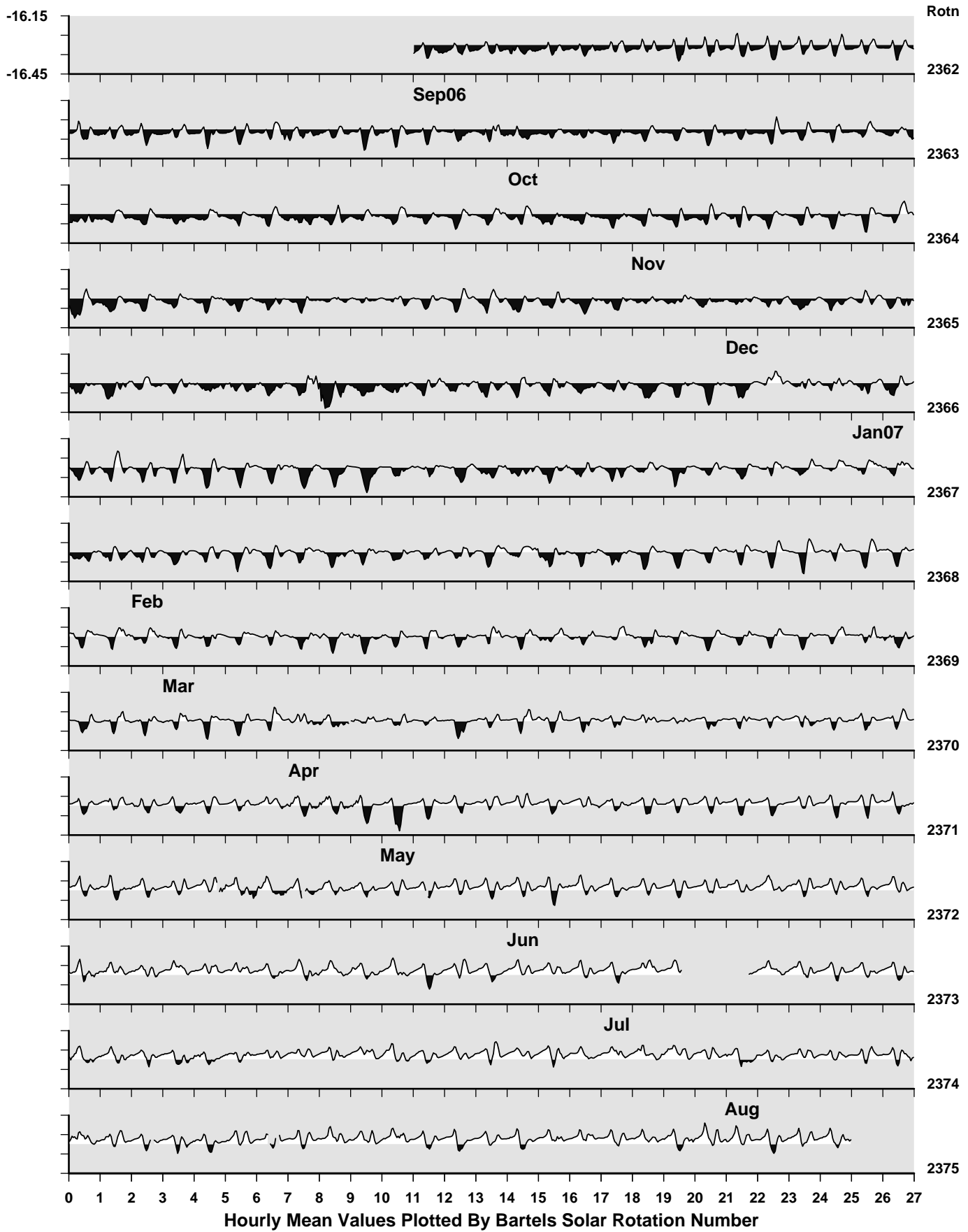
Date: 31-08-2007

# Ascension Island

Day number: 243

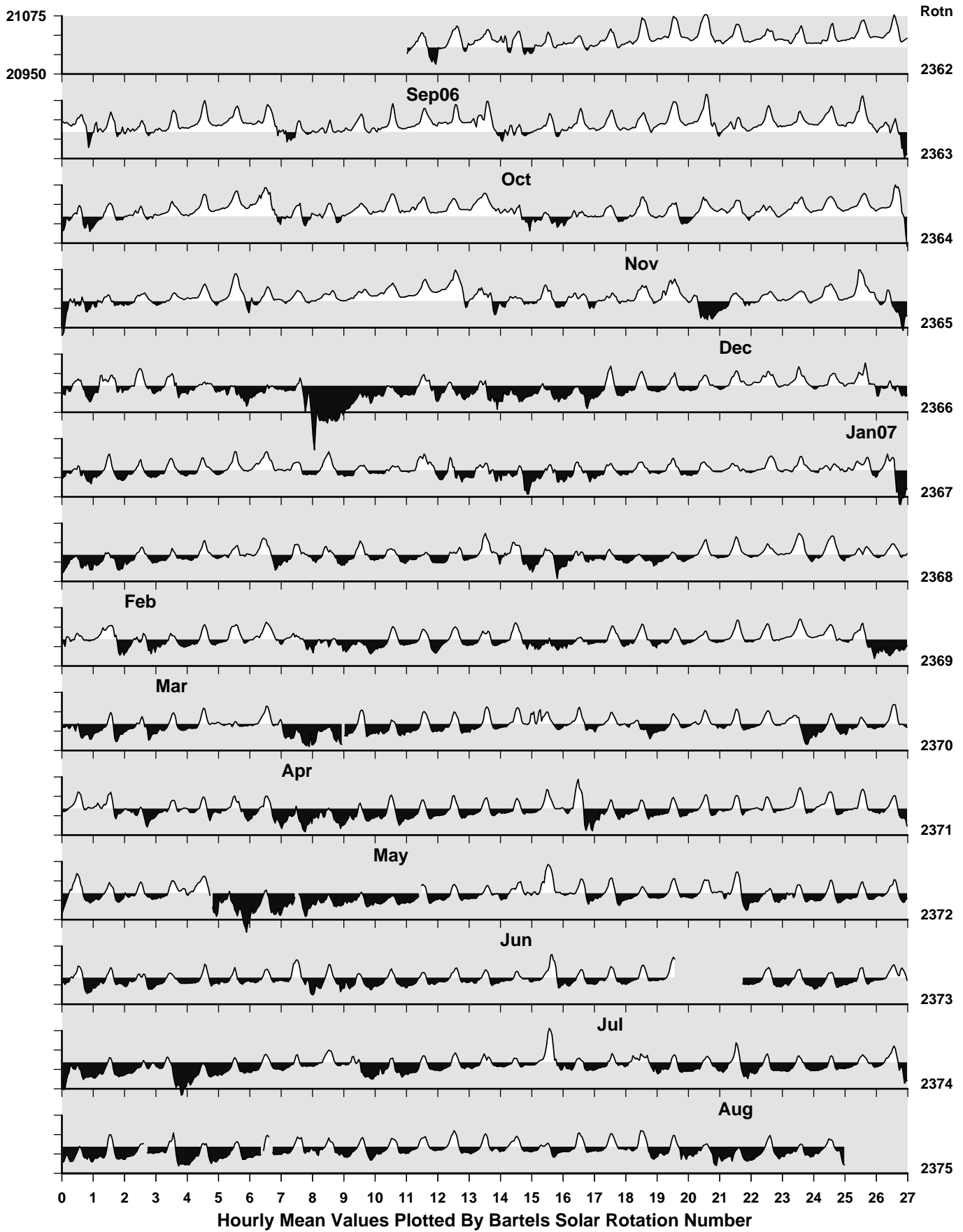


# Ascension Island Observatory: Declination (degrees)

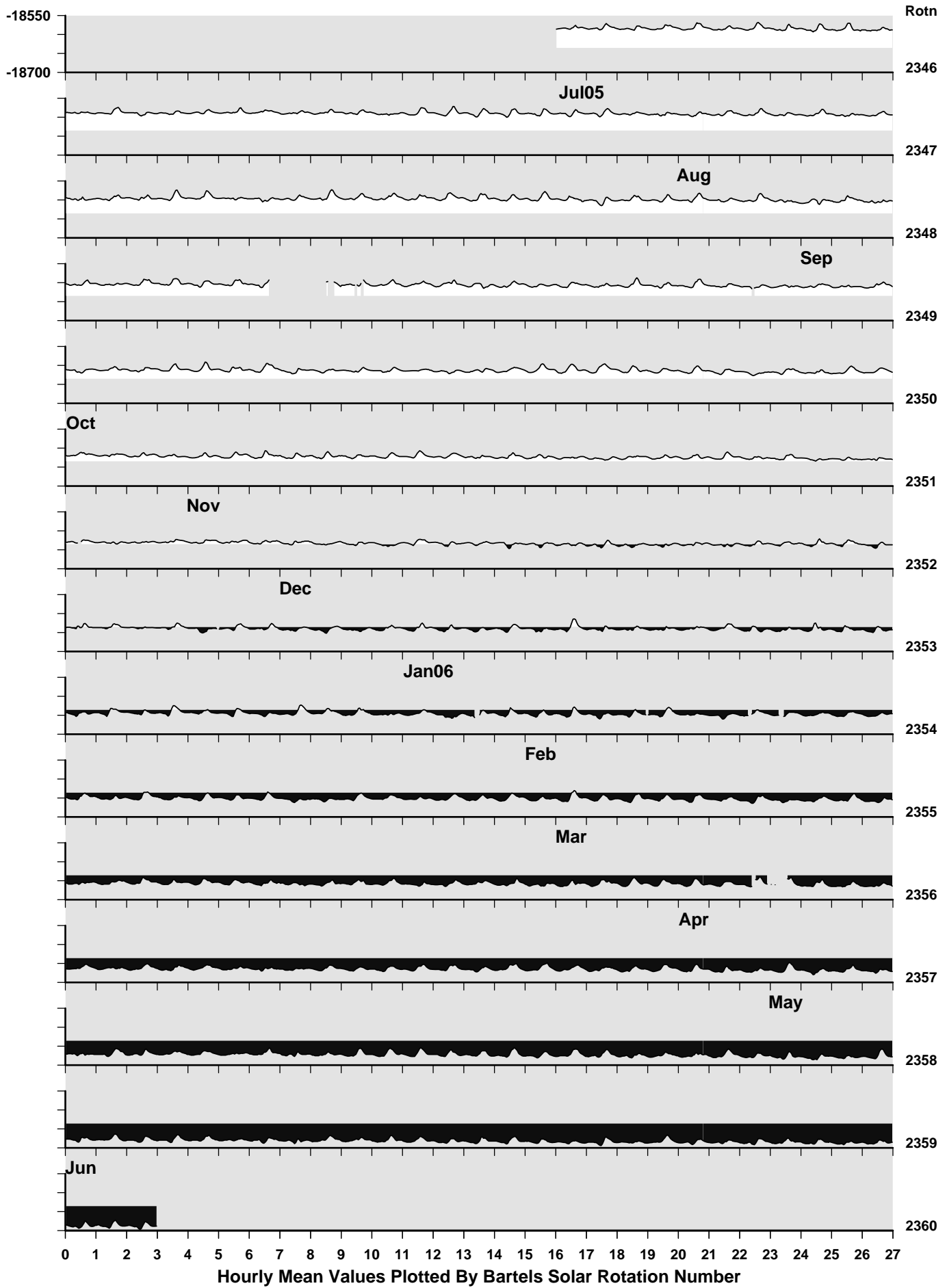




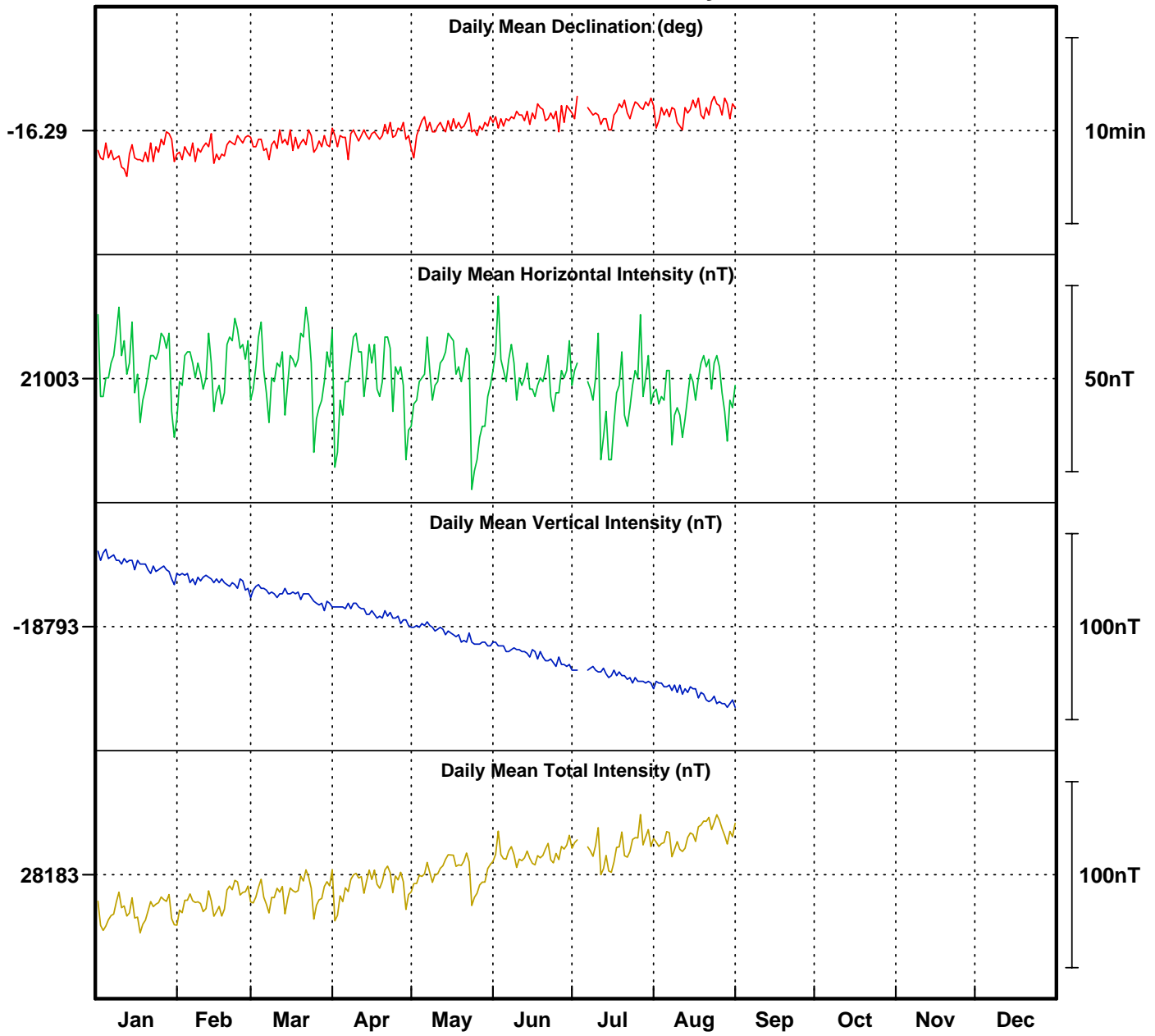
# Ascension Island Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT)



# Ascension Island Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)



# Ascension Is Observatory 2007



### Monthly Mean Values for Ascension Island Observatory 2007

Month	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>F</i>
January	-16° 18.7′	21006 nT	-41° 46.0′	20161 nT	-5900 nT	-18759 nT	28163 nT
February	-16° 18.3′	21006 nT	-41° 46.8′	20162 nT	-5898 nT	-18768 nT	28170 nT
March	-16° 18.1′	21005 nT	-41° 47.5′	20161 nT	-5896 nT	-18776 nT	28174 nT
April	-16° 17.7′	21002 nT	-41° 48.7′	20158 nT	-5893 nT	-18785 nT	28177 nT
May	-16° 17.2′	21001 nT	-41° 49.8′	20158 nT	-5890 nT	-18797 nT	28184 nT
June	-16° 16.7′	21004 nT	-41° 50.6′	20162 nT	-5887 nT	-18808 nT	28194 nT
July	-16° 16.4′	20999 nT	-41° 52.0′	20158 nT	-5884 nT	-18819 nT	28198 nT
August	-16° 16.4′	20999 nT	-41° 52.8′	20158 nT	-5884 nT	-18829 nT	28205 nT

#### Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.