

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Ascension Island

Observatory

Monthly

Magnetic

Bulletin

October 2010

10/10/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 provide rapid access to the provisional geomagnetic observatory results. The information is freely available for personal, academic, educational and non-commercial research or use. Magnetic observatory data are presented as a series of plots of one-minute, hourly and daily values, followed by tabulations of monthly values. The operation of the observatory and presentation of data are described in the rest of this section.

Enquiries about the data should be addressed to:

Geomagnetism Team
Earth Hazards and Systems
British Geological Survey
Murchison House, West Mains Road
Edinburgh EH9 3LA
Scotland, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 131 667 1000
Fax: +44 (0) 131 650 0265
E-mail: enquiries@bgs.ac.uk
Internet: www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk

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. The observatory co-ordinates are:

Geographic: 7.949°S 345.624°E
Geomagnetic: 2.589°S 57.106°E
Height above mean sea level: 177 m

The geomagnetic co-ordinates are approximations, calculated using the 11th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) at epoch 2010.5. On-line access to models (including IGRF), charts and navigational data are available at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/navigation.html

3. The Observatory Operation

3.1 GDAS

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

There are two sets of sensors used for making magnetic measurements. A tri-axial 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 (PPM) 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 and the total field intensity samples are filtered using a 7-point cosine filter. The one-minute values provide input for various data products in the Geomagnetism Information and Forecast Service (GIFS), available on-line at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/on_line_gifs.html

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. Observatory Results

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 to a page and show the one-minute 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 and/or coronal holes on the Sun may recur after 27 days: the same is true for geomagnetically

quiet intervals. Plotting the data in this way highlights this recurrence. Diurnal variations are also clear in these plots and the amplitude changes throughout the year highlight the seasonal changes. Longer term secular variation is also illustrated.

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. It is anticipated that these provisional values will not be altered by more than a few nT or tenths of arcminutes before being made definitive at the end of the year.

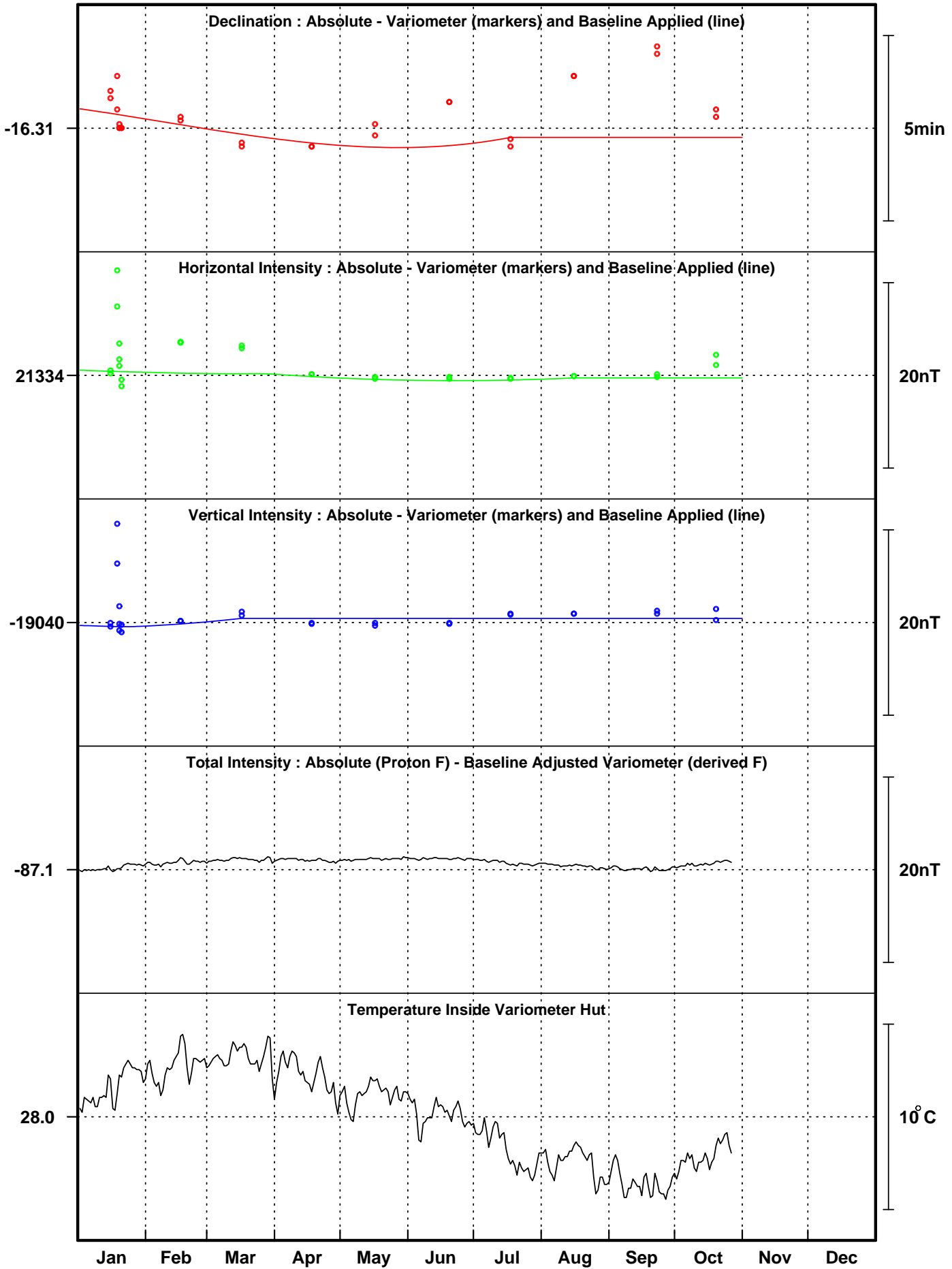
5. Conditions of Use

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Reproduction of any part of this bulletin should be accompanied by the statement: 'Reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved'. Publications making use of the data should include an acknowledgment statement of the form: 'The results presented in this paper rely on the data collected at Ascension Island magnetic observatory, operated by the British Geological Survey.'

Commercial users can contact the geomagnetism team for information on the range of applications and services offered. Full contact details are available at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/staff.html.

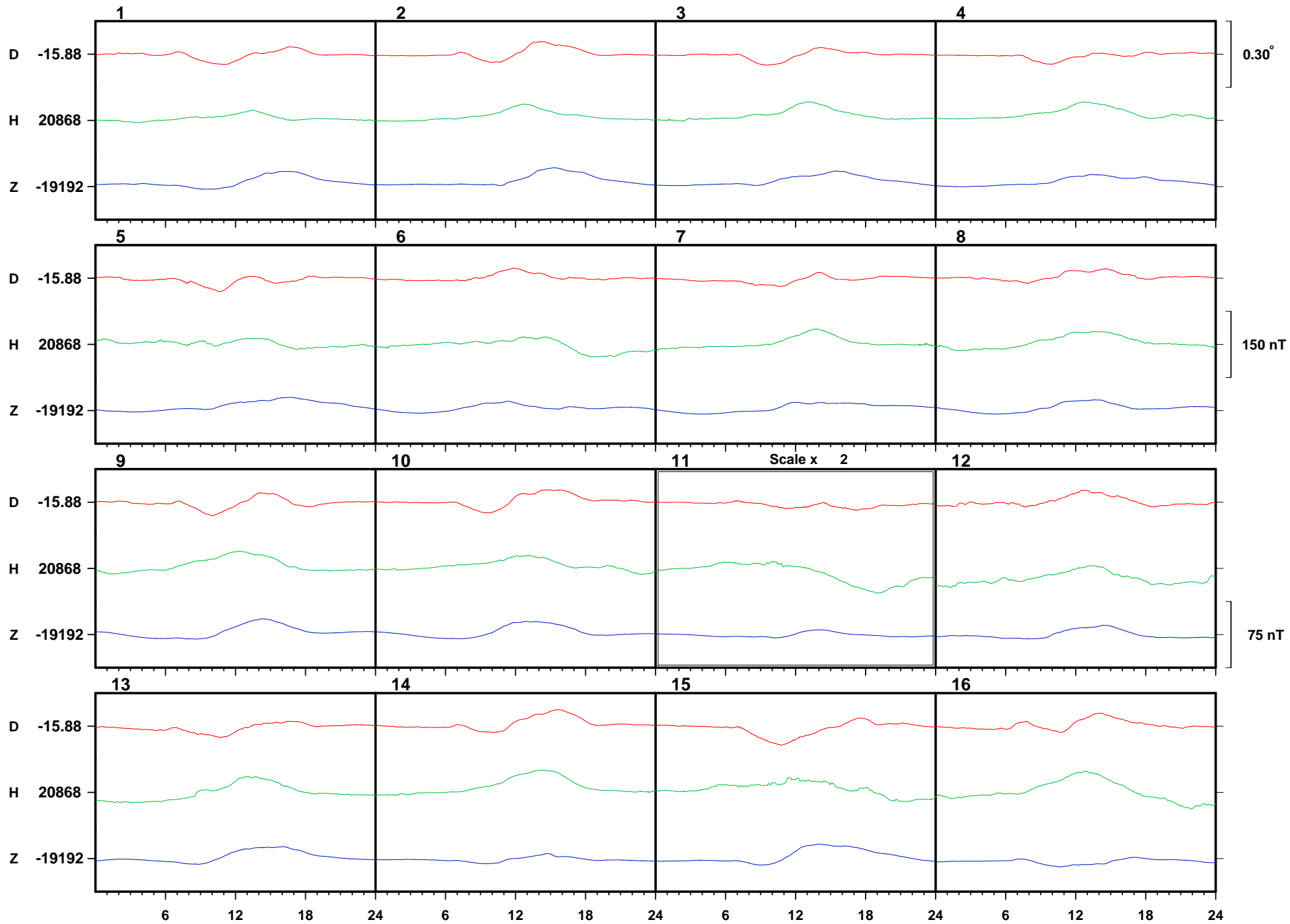
Ascension Island 2010

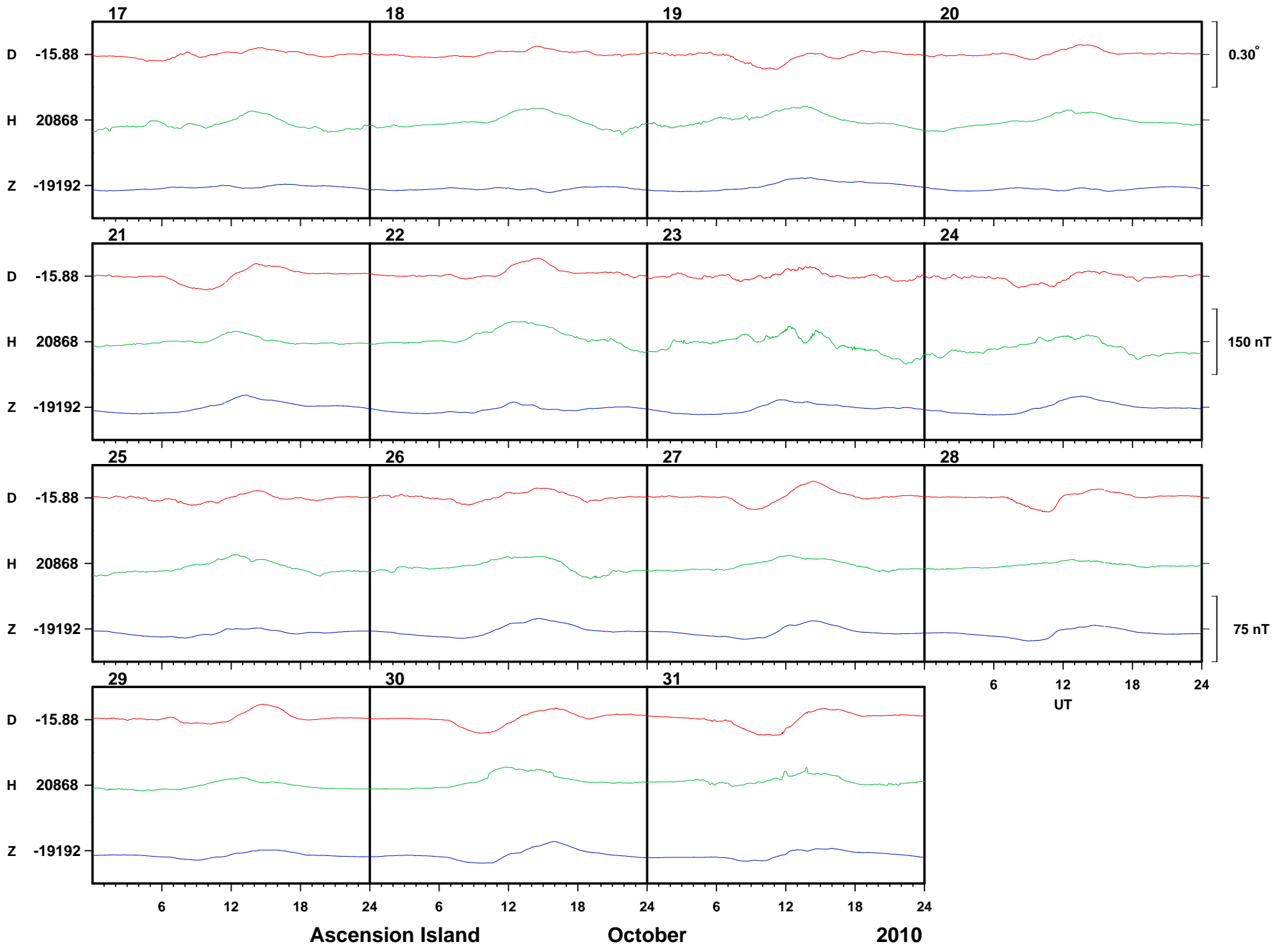


Ascension Island

October

2010





Ascension Island

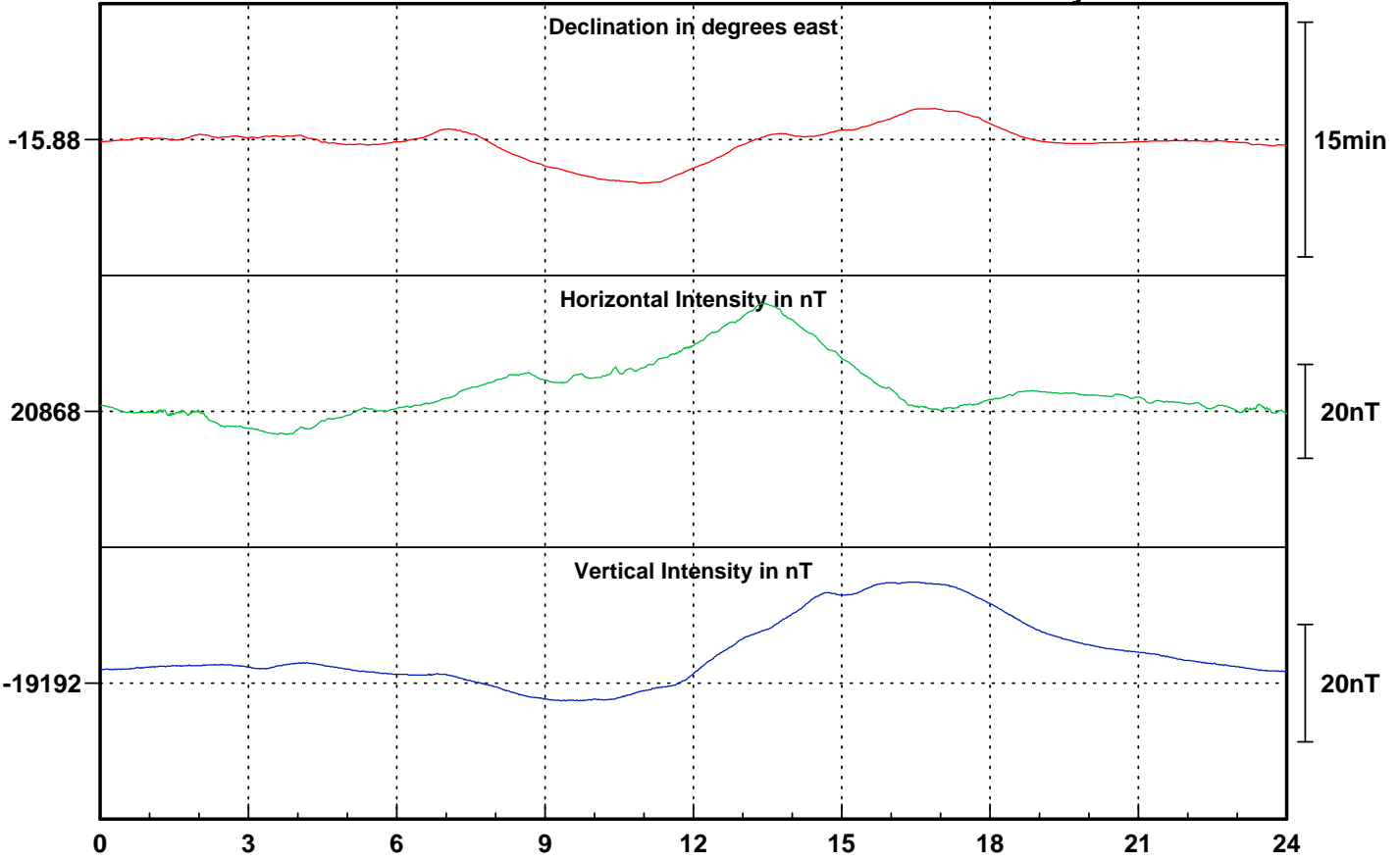
October

2010

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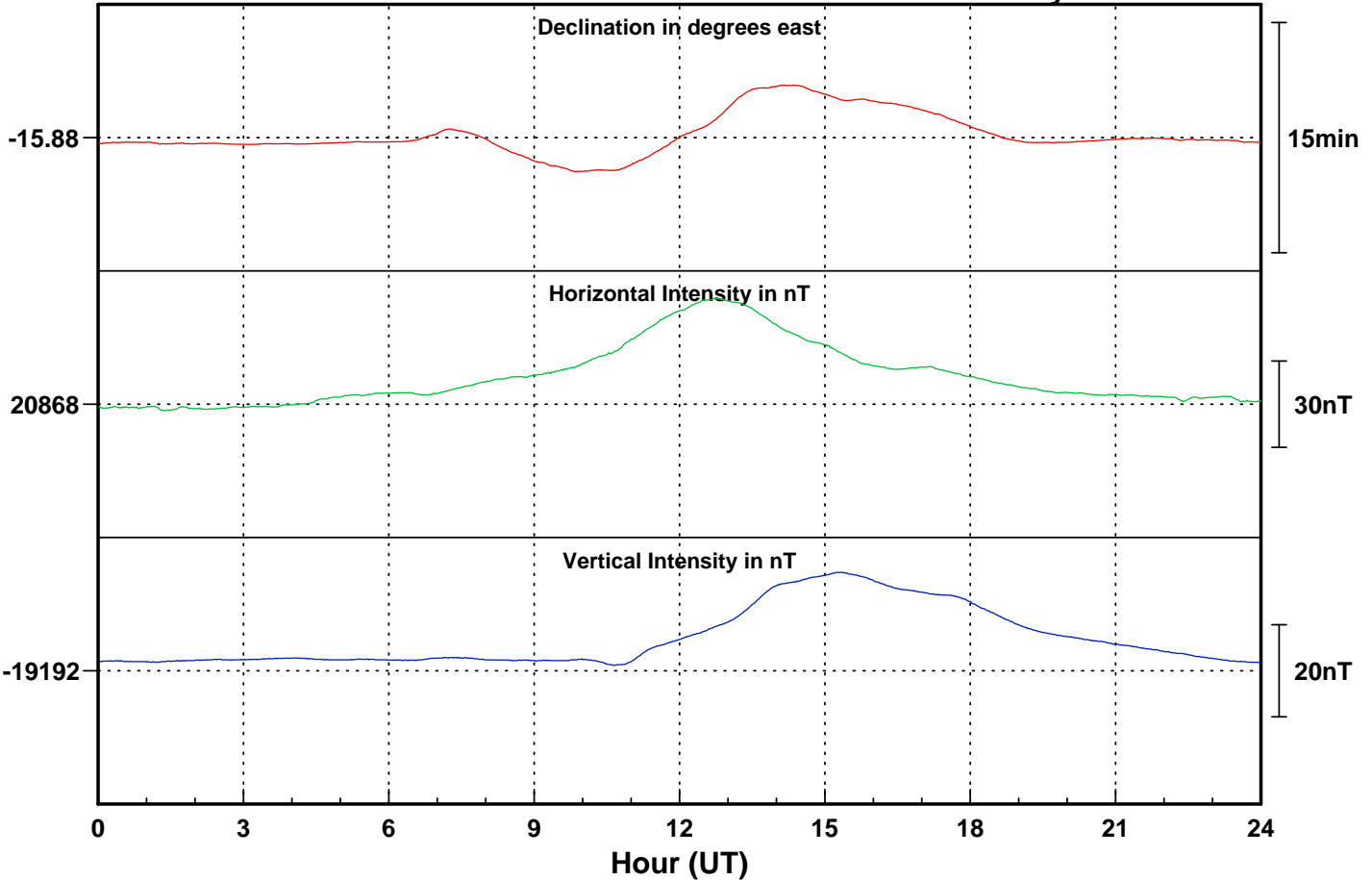
Ascension Island

Day number: 274



Date: 02-10-2010

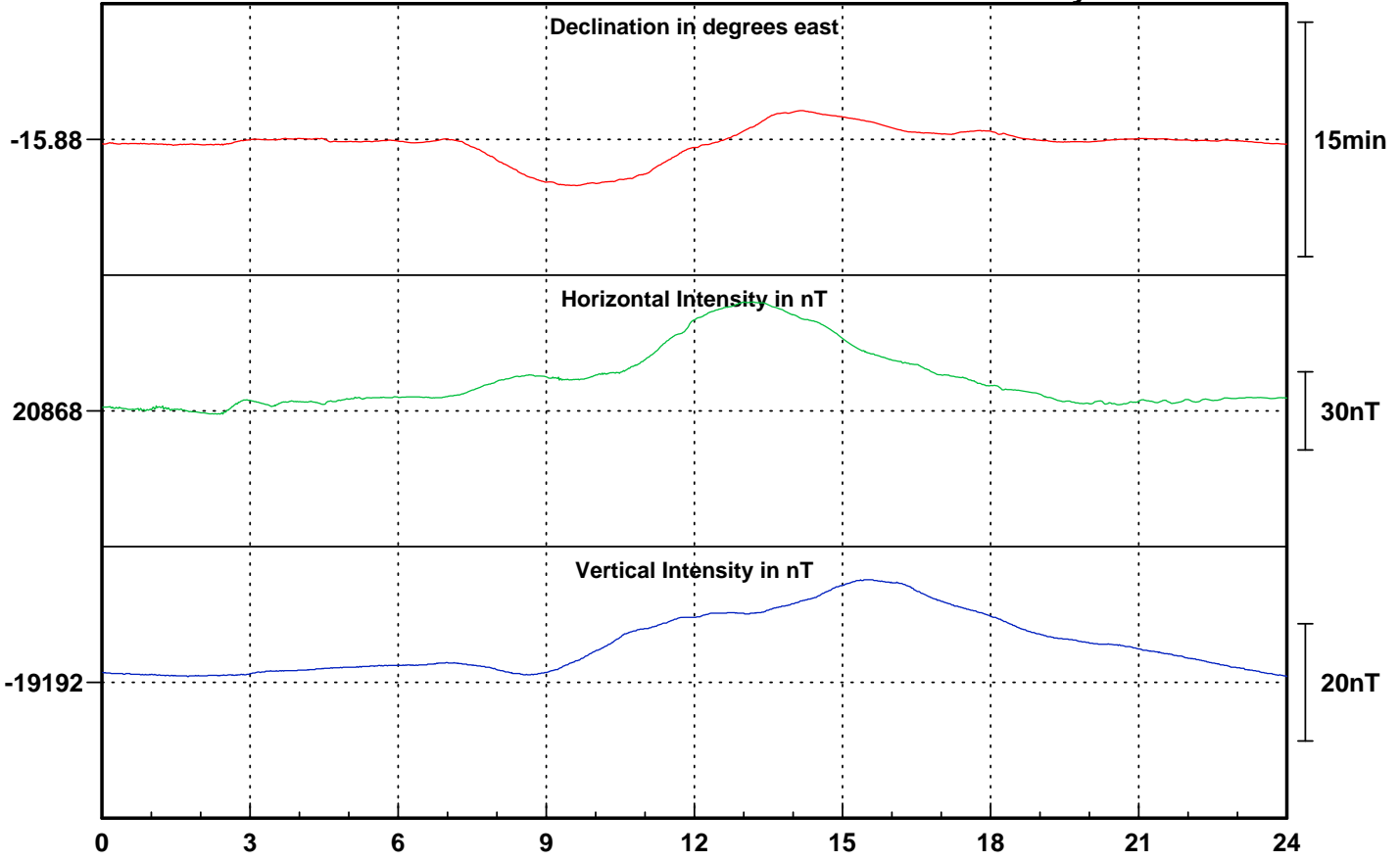
Day number: 275



Date: 03-10-2010

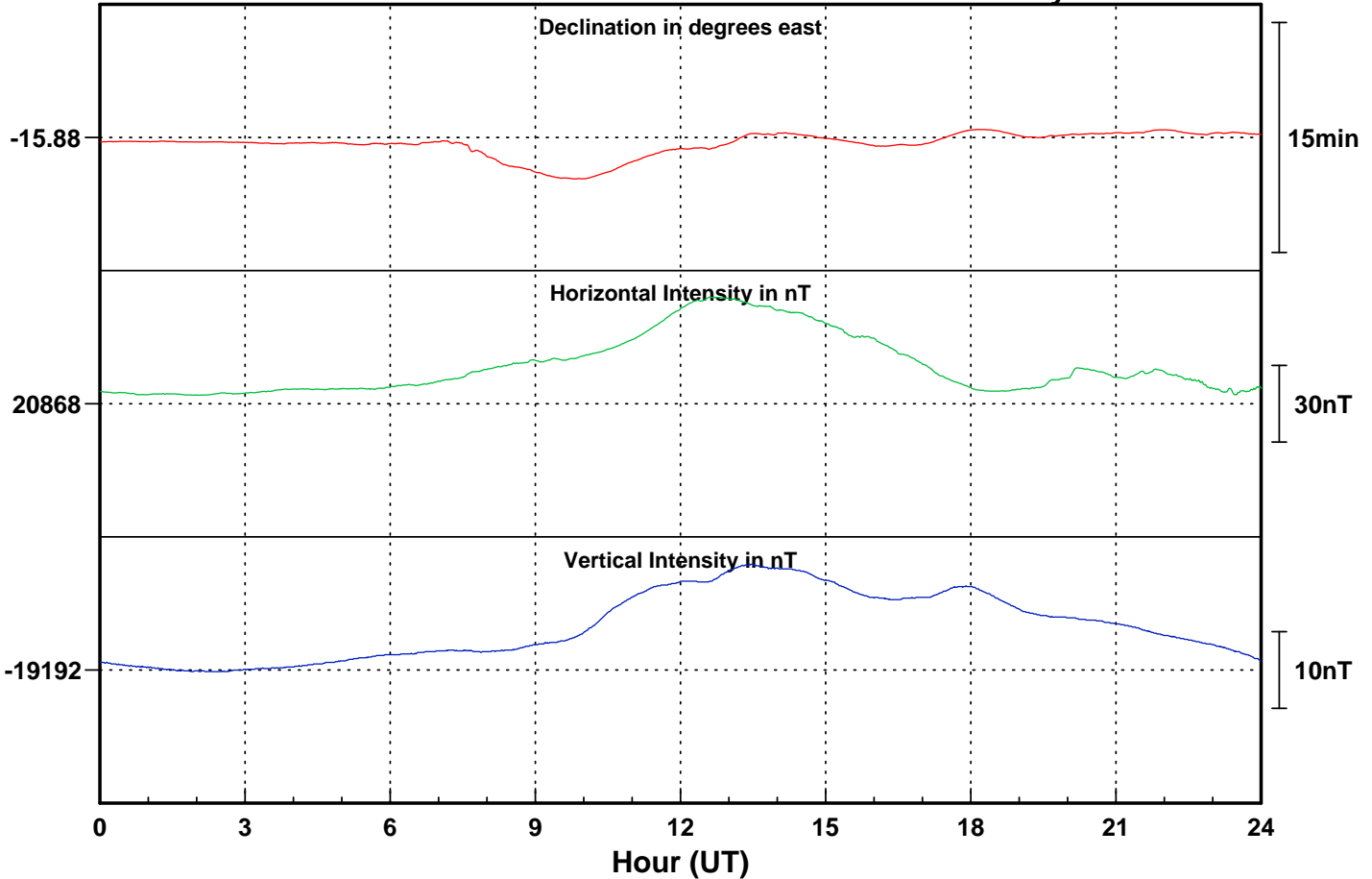
Ascension Island

Day number: 276



Date: 04-10-2010

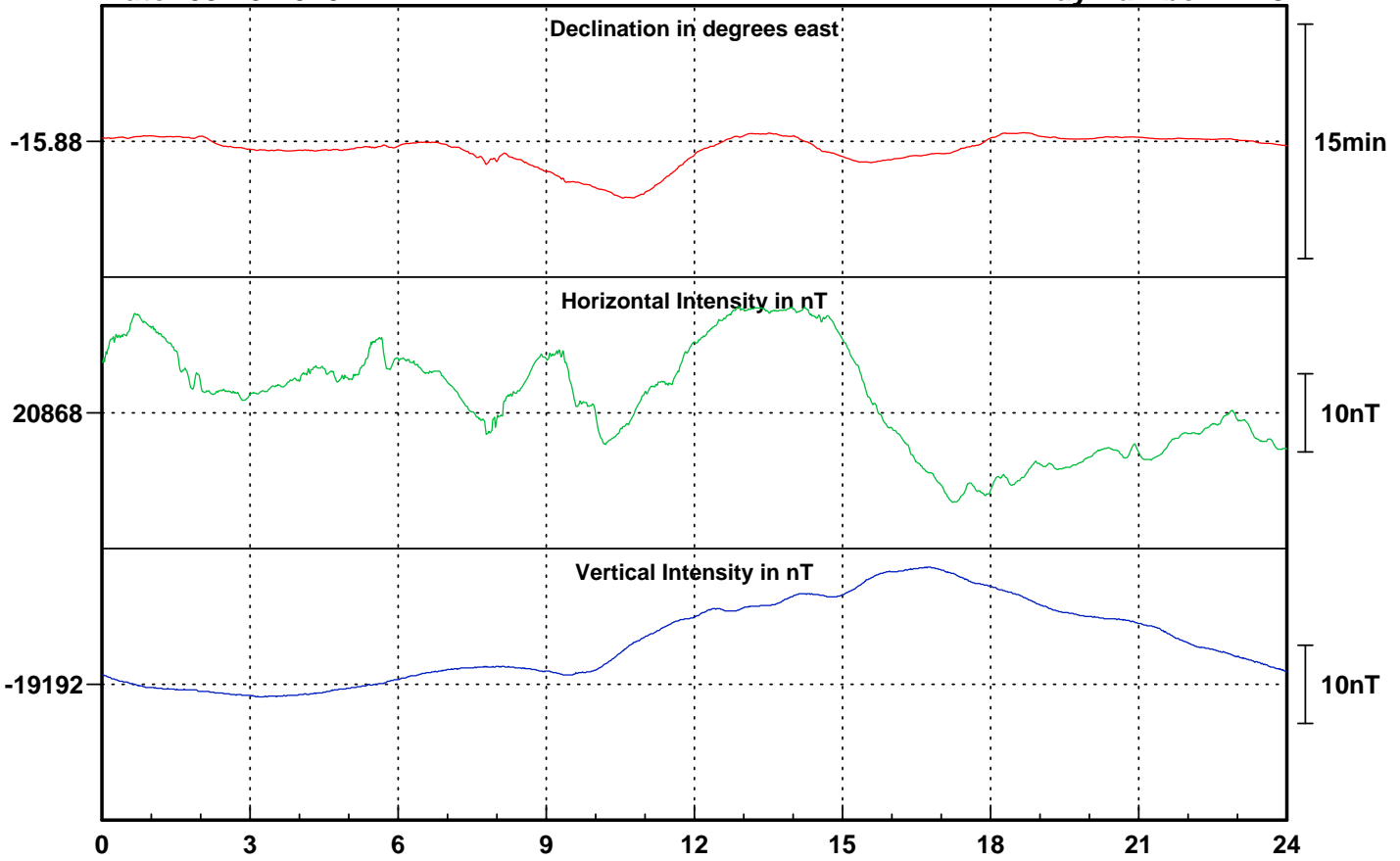
Day number: 277



Date: 05-10-2010

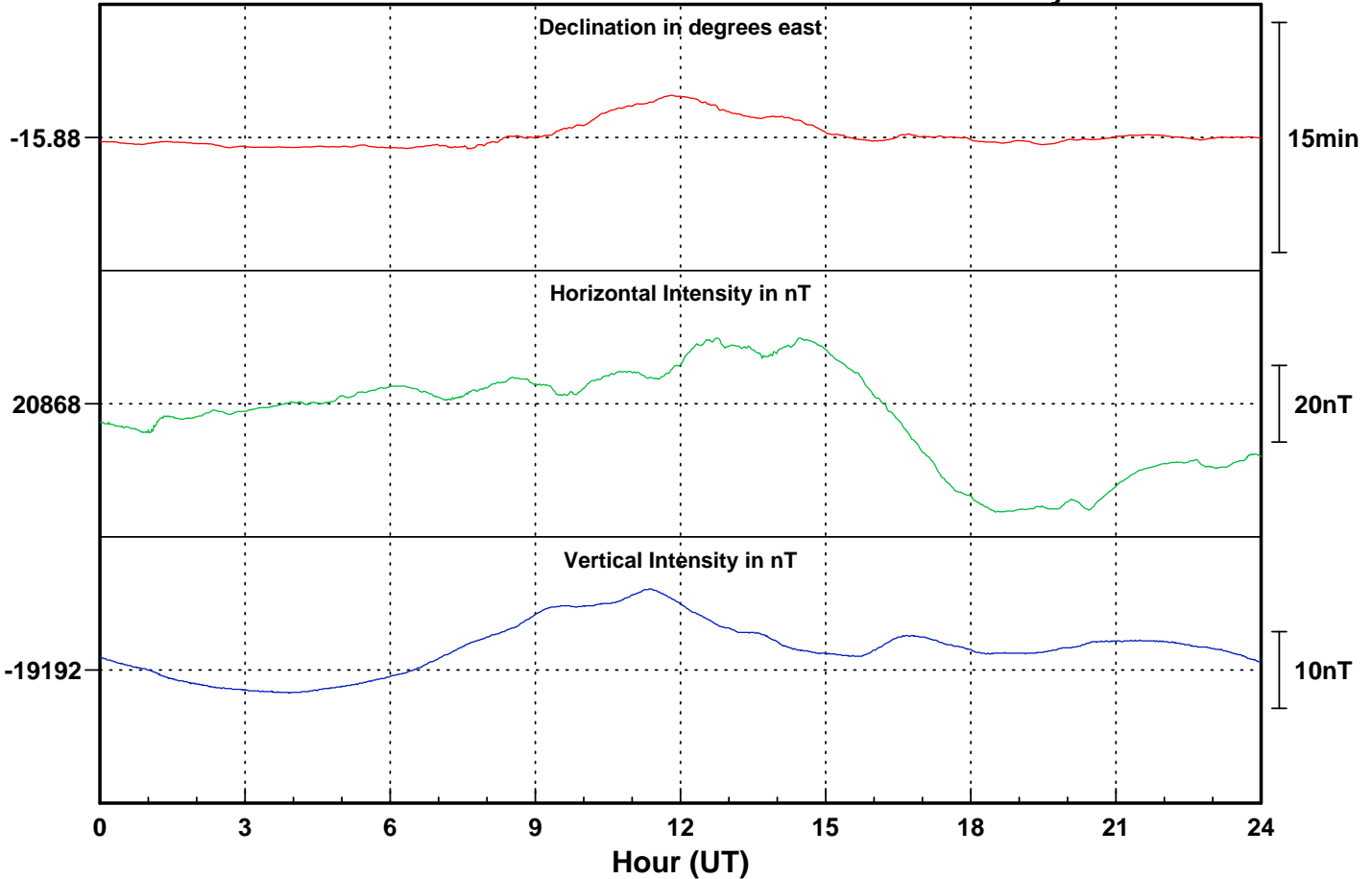
Ascension Island

Day number: 278



Date: 06-10-2010

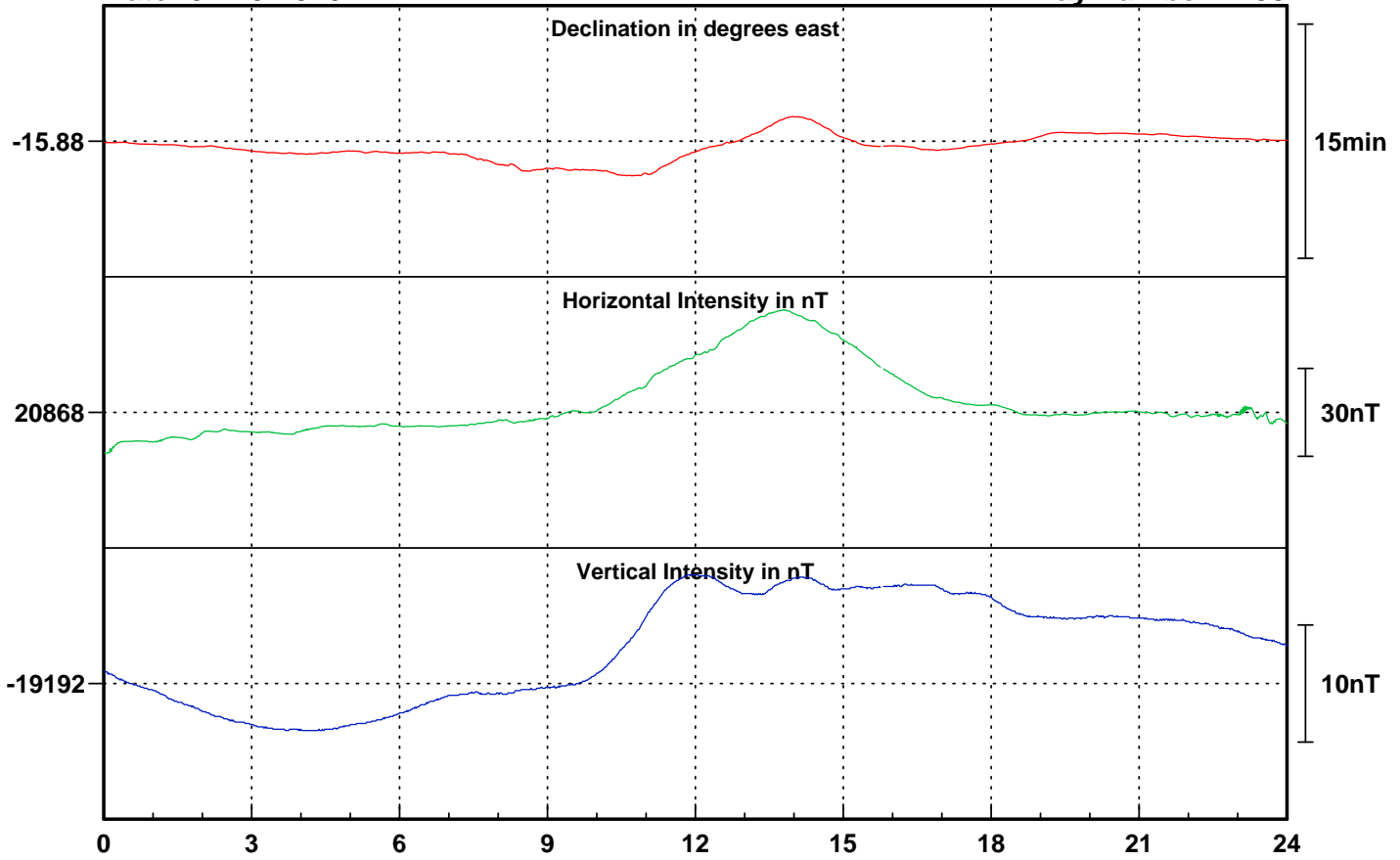
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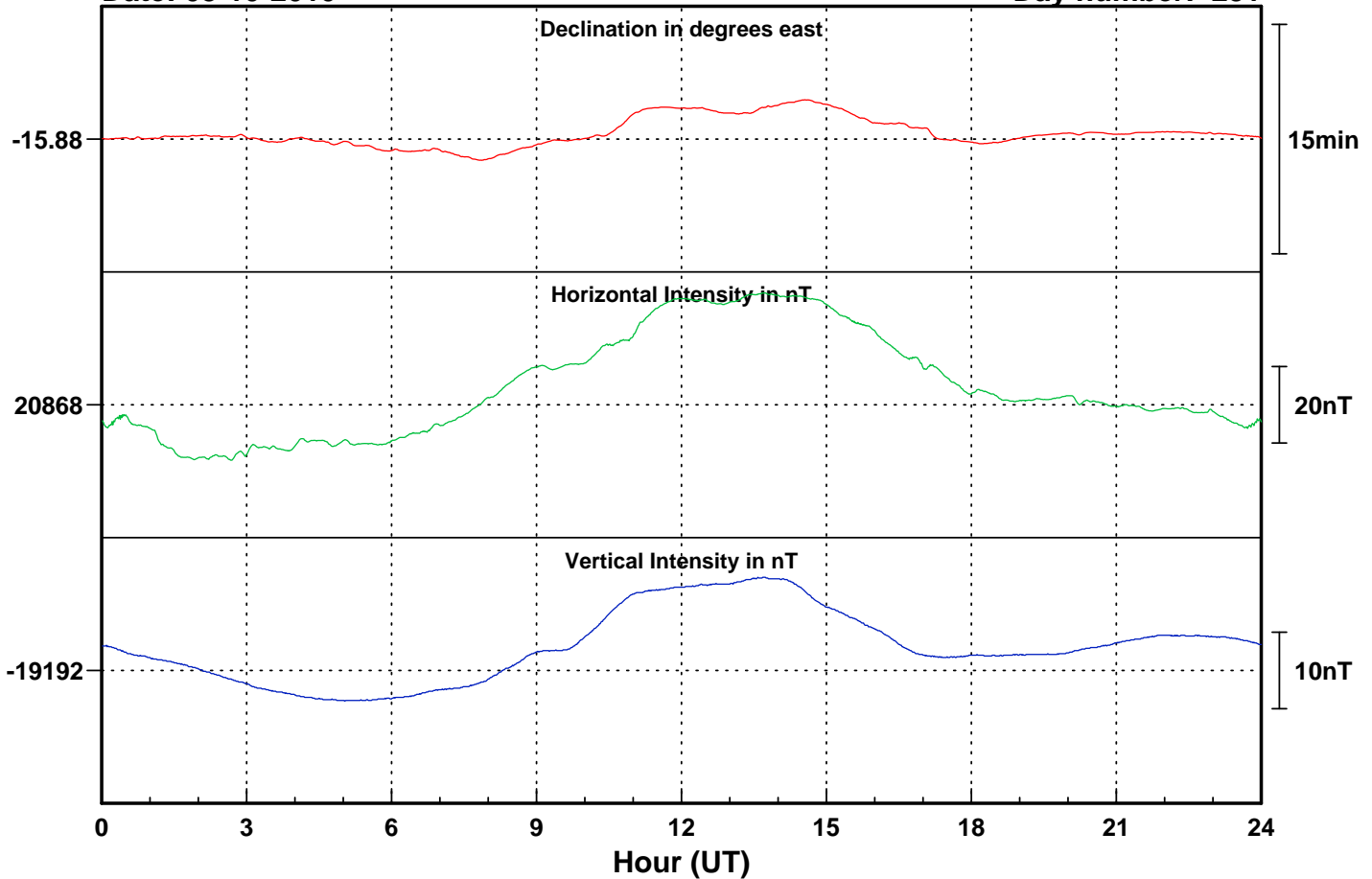
Ascension Island

Day number: 280



Date: 08-10-2010

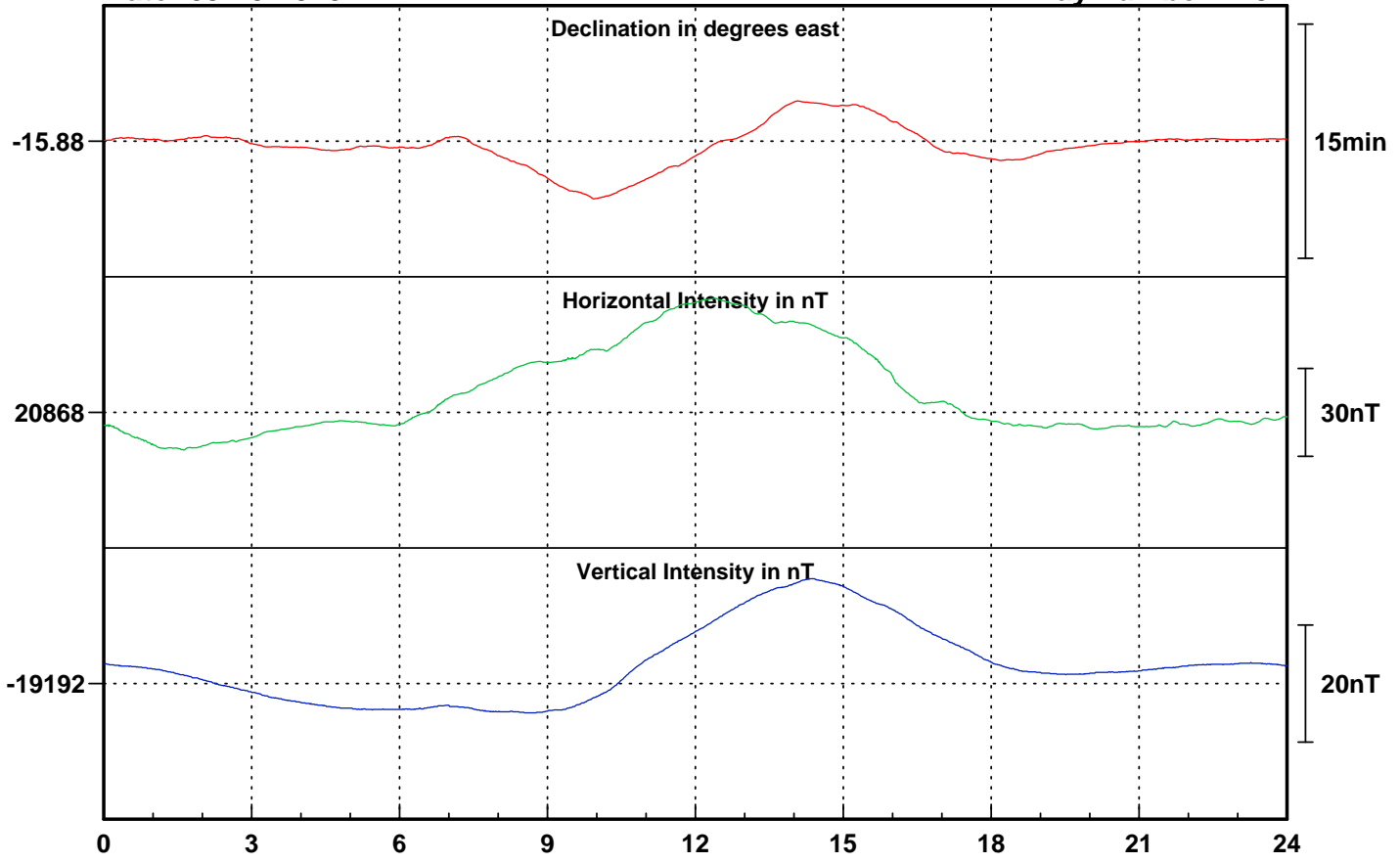
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Date: 09-10-2010

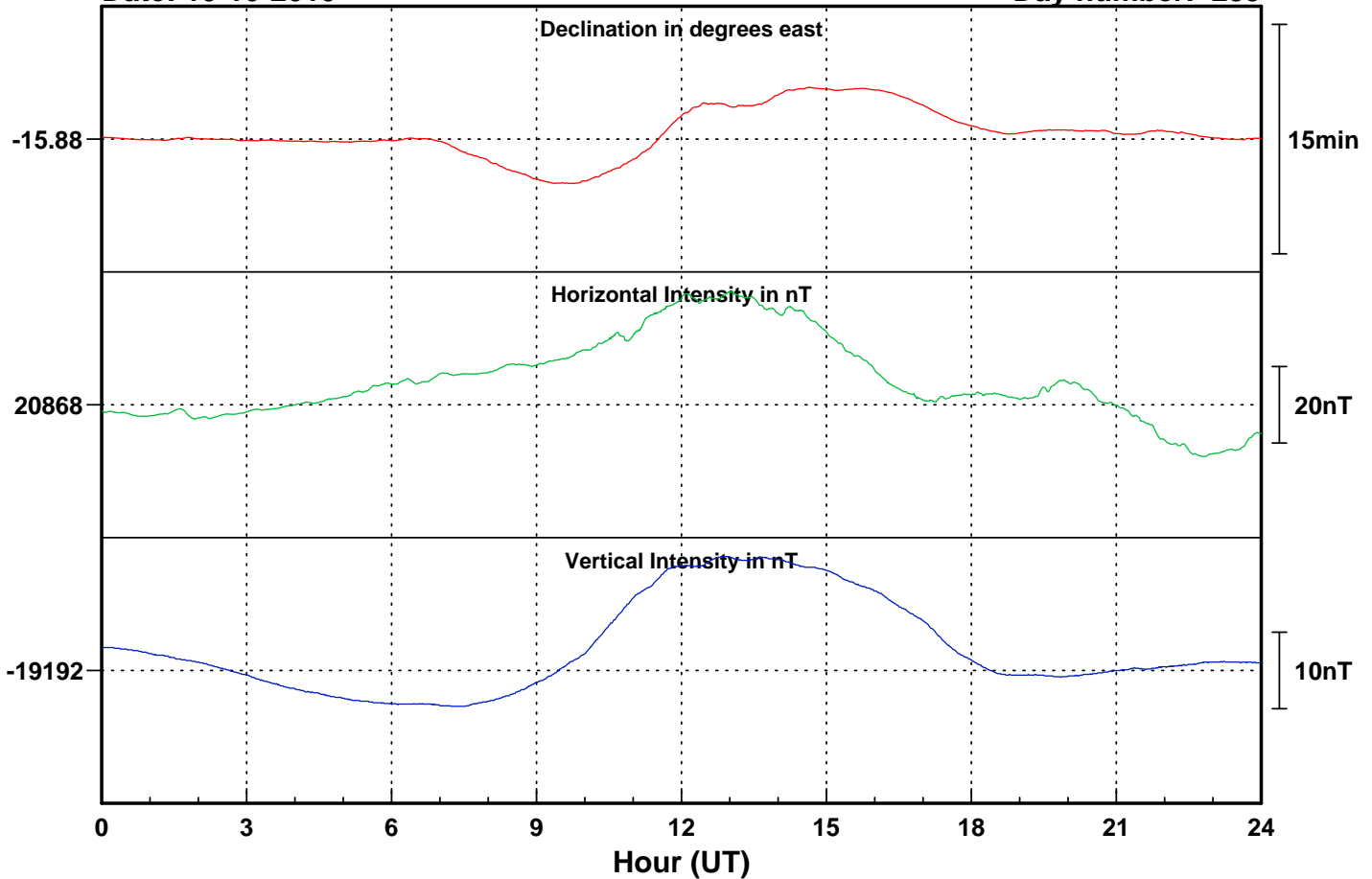
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Day number: 282



Date: 10-10-2010

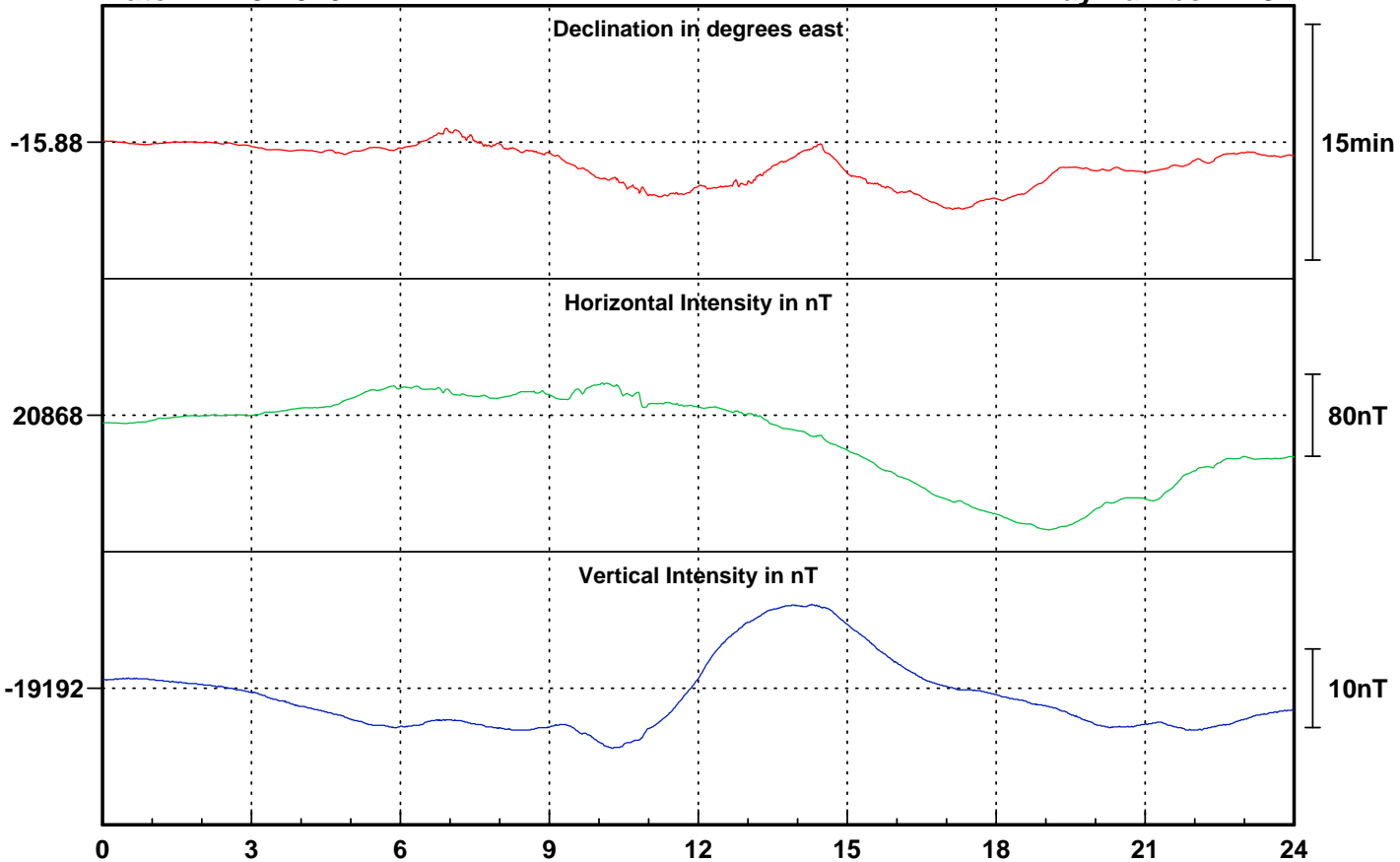
Day number: 283



Date: 11-10-2010

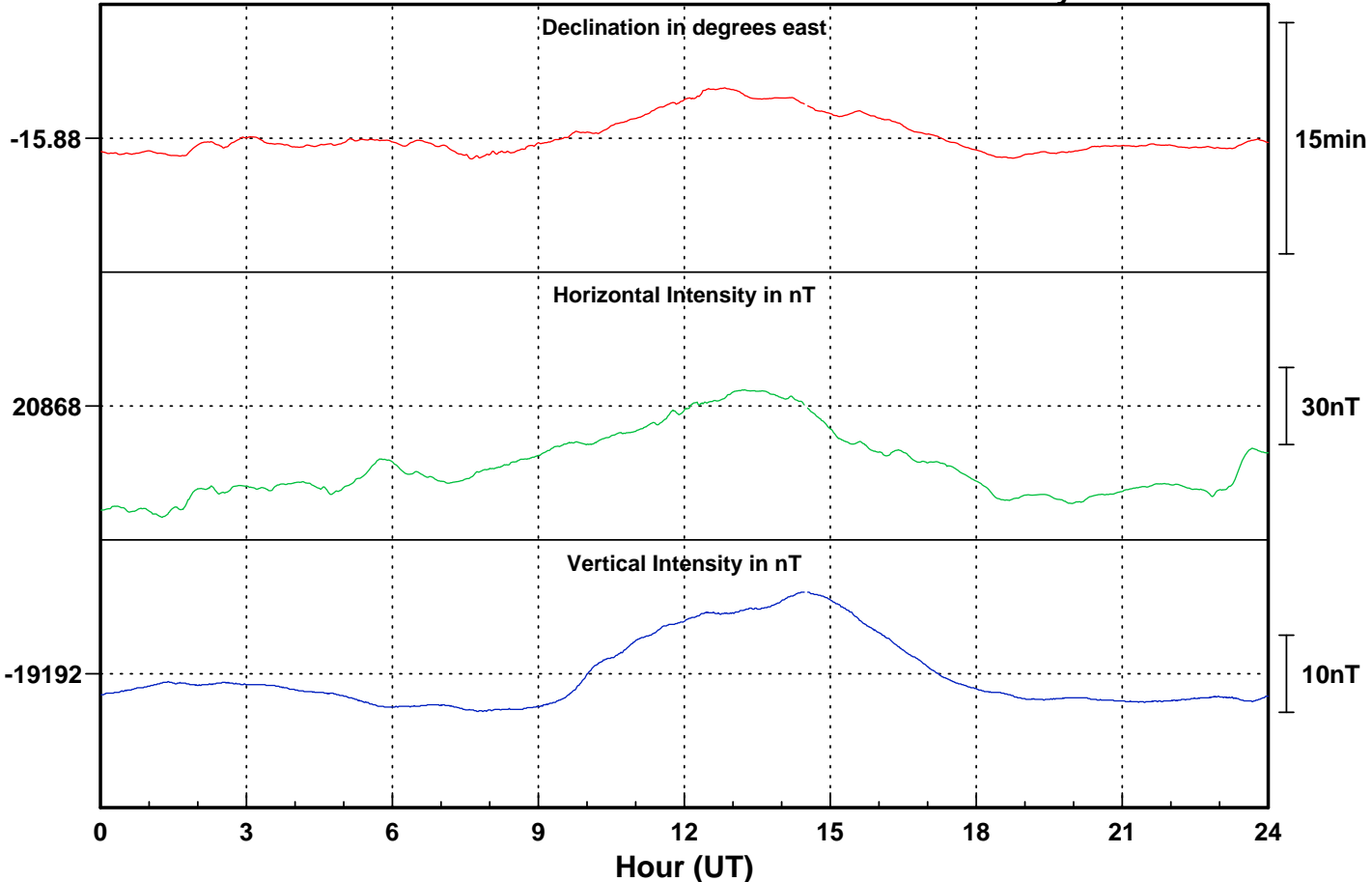
Ascension Island

Day number: 284



Date: 12-10-2010

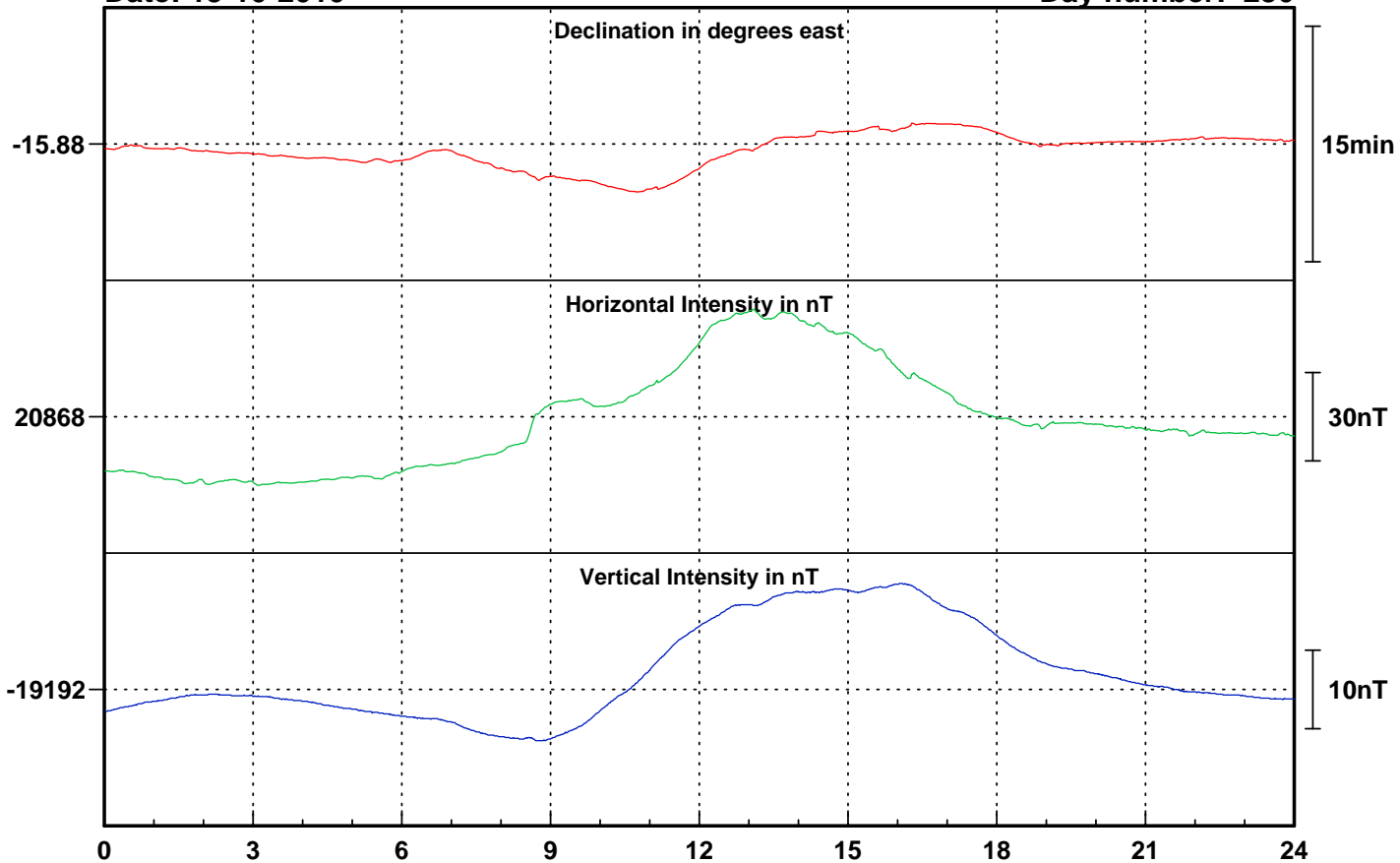
Day number: 285



Date: 13-10-2010

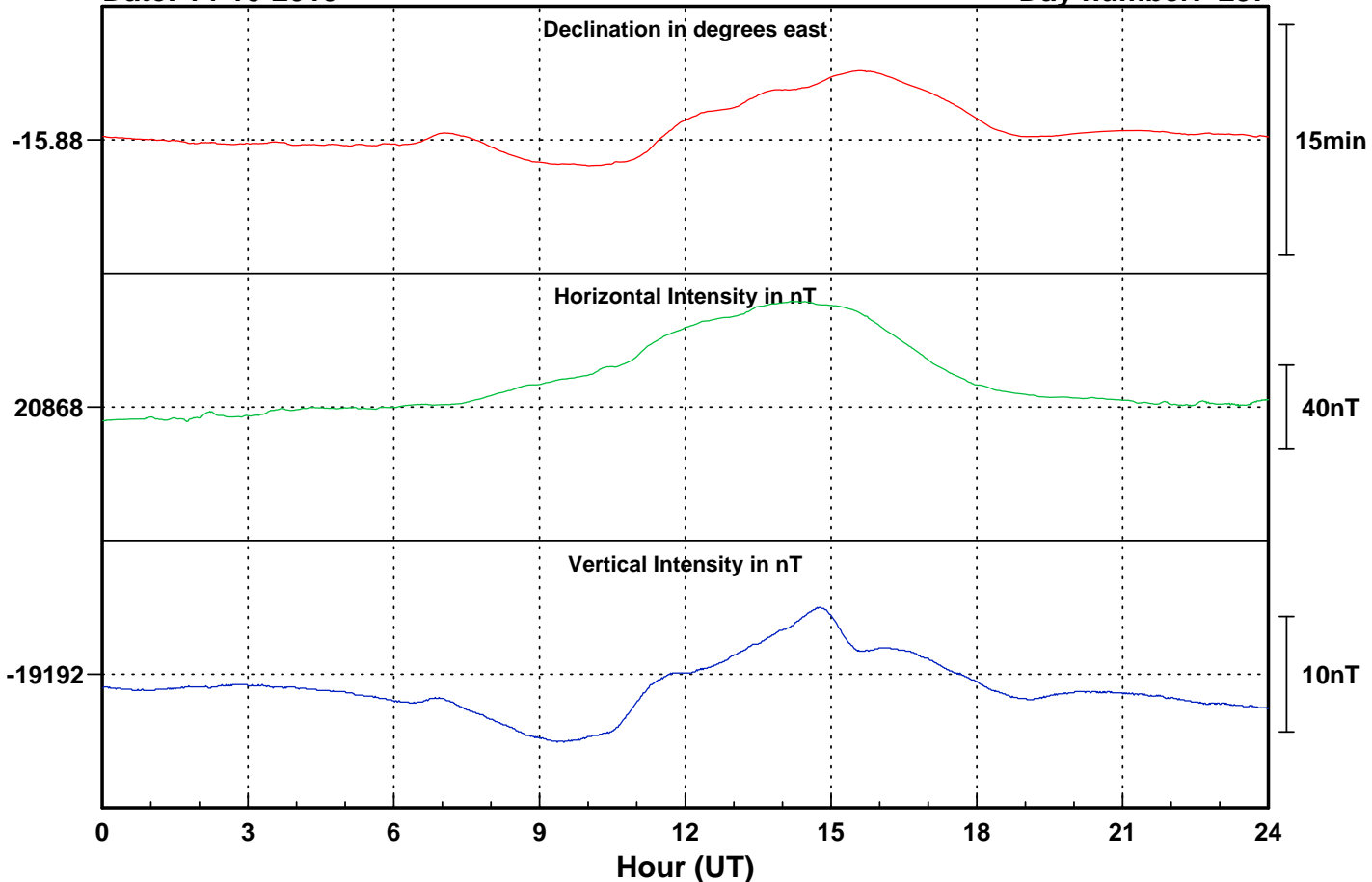
Ascension Island

Day number: 286



Date: 14-10-2010

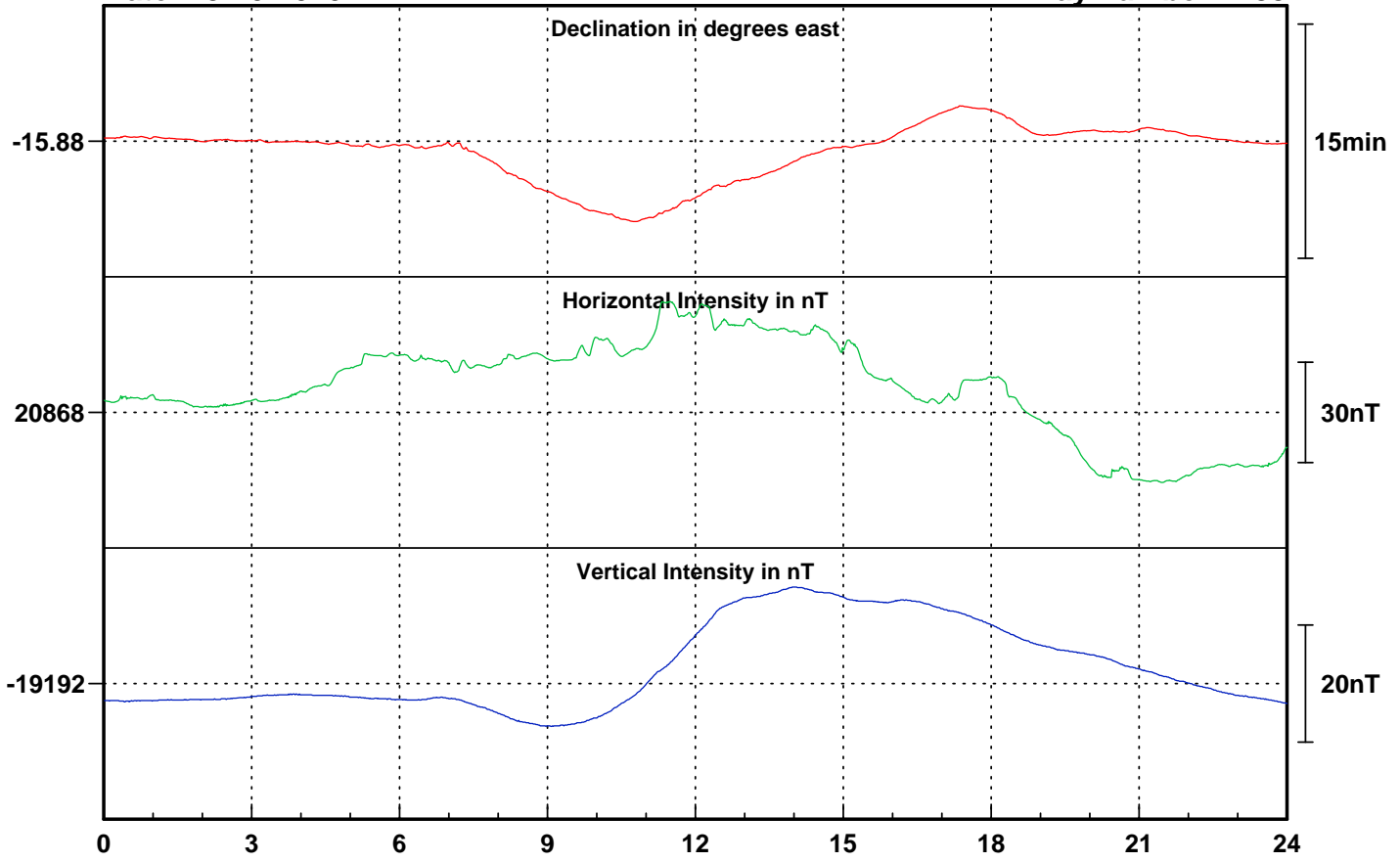
Day number: 287



Date: 15-10-2010

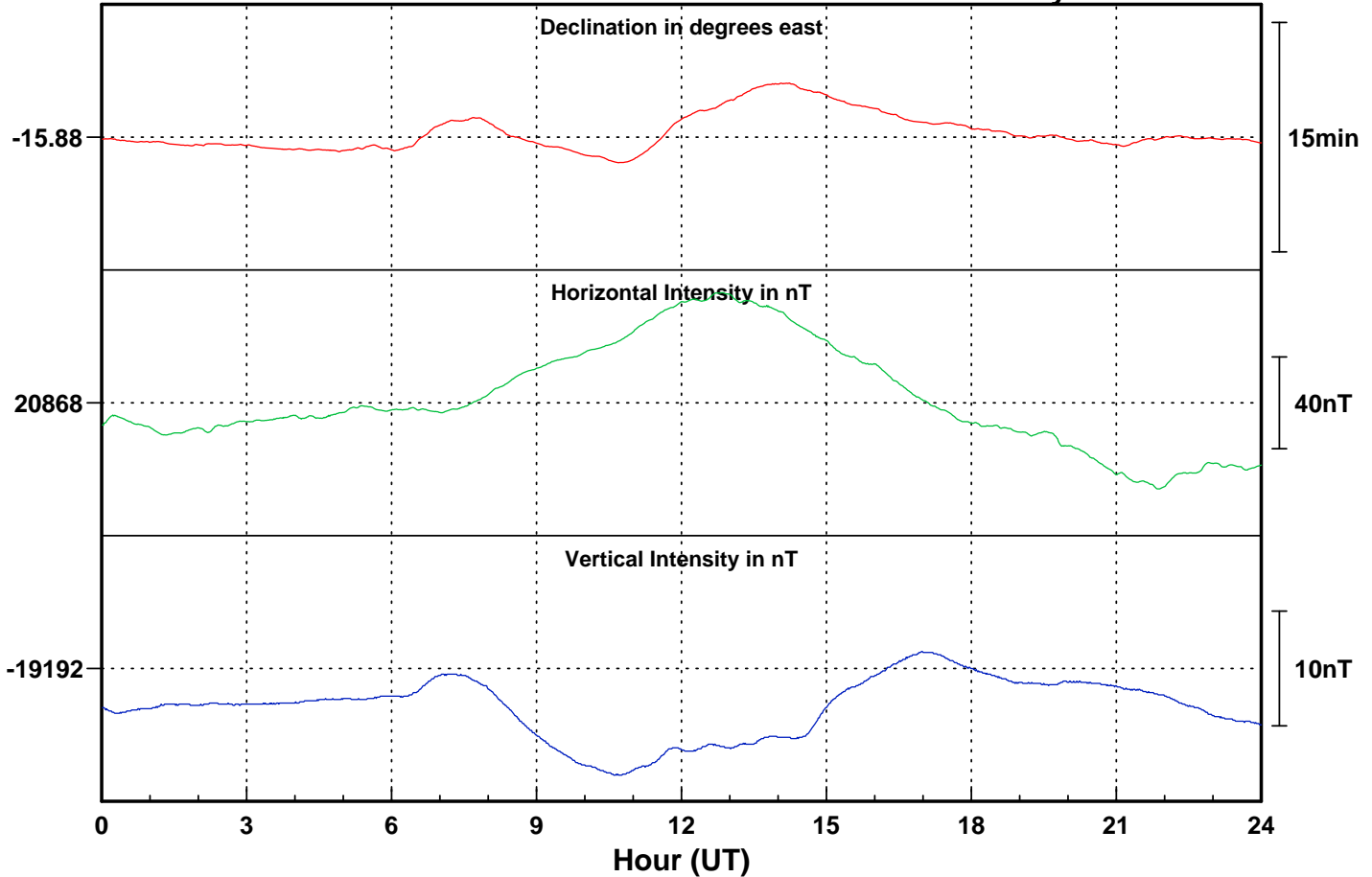
Ascension Island

Day number: 288



Date: 16-10-2010

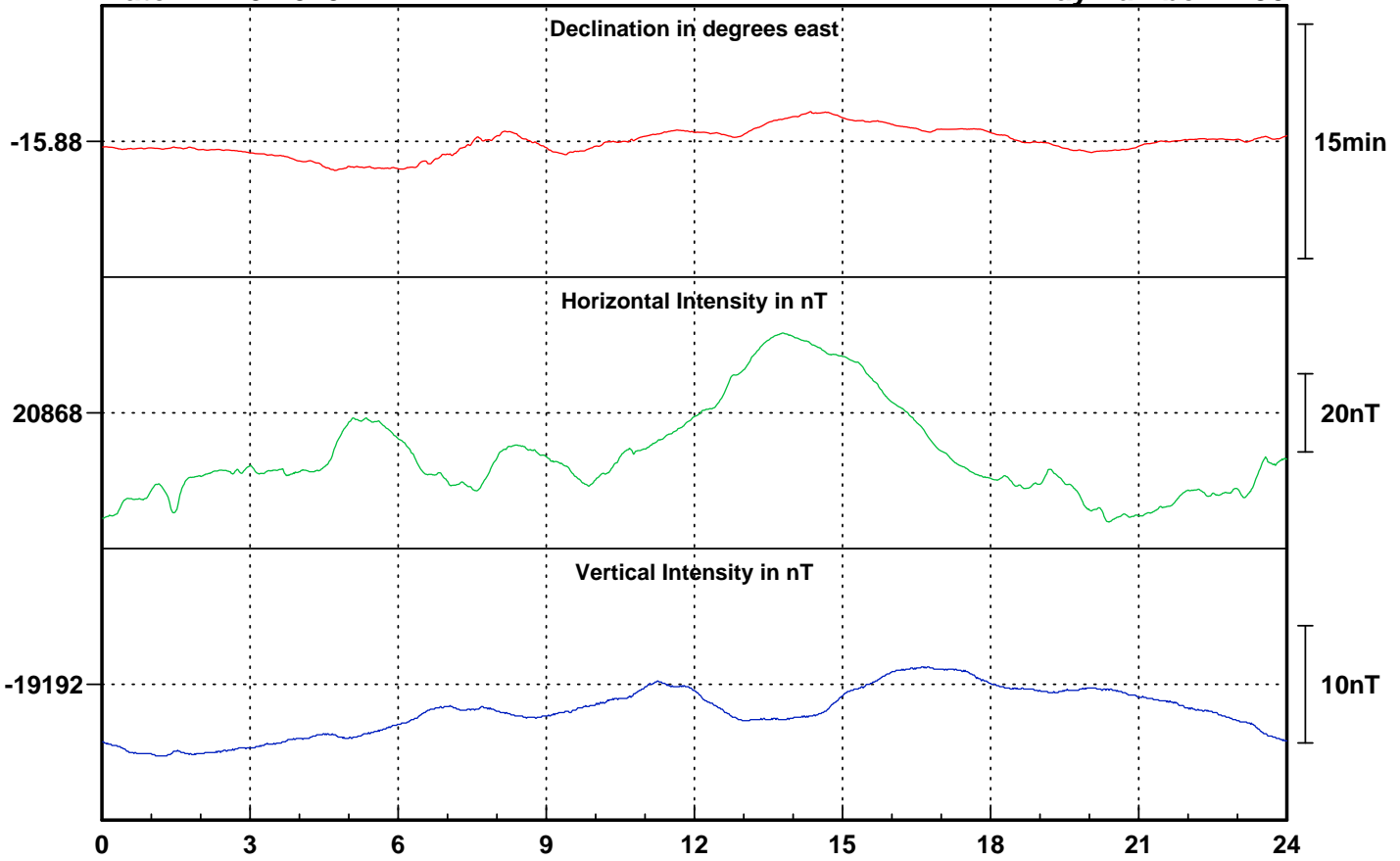
Day number: 289



Date: 17-10-2010

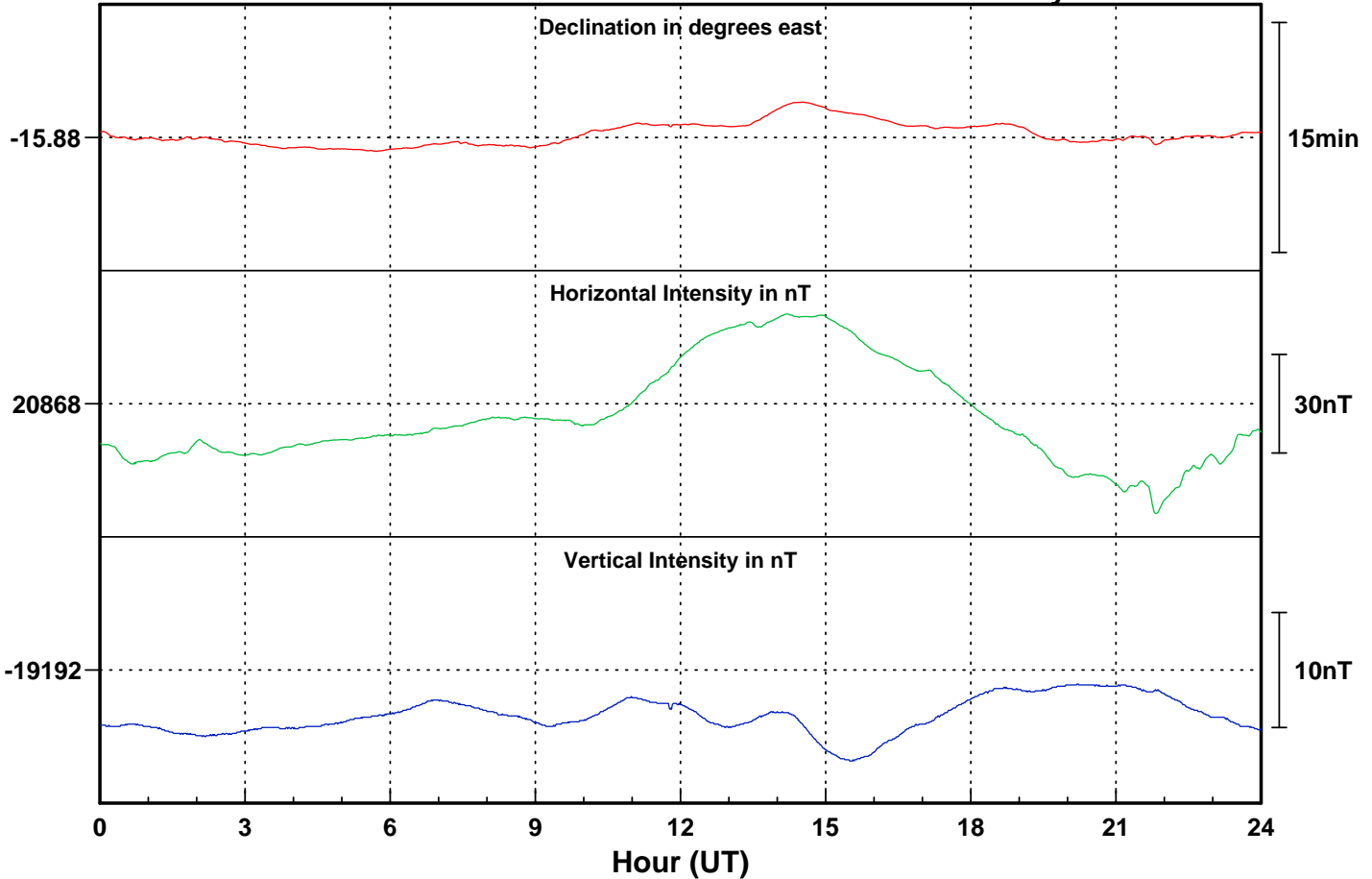
Ascension Island

Day number: 290



Date: 18-10-2010

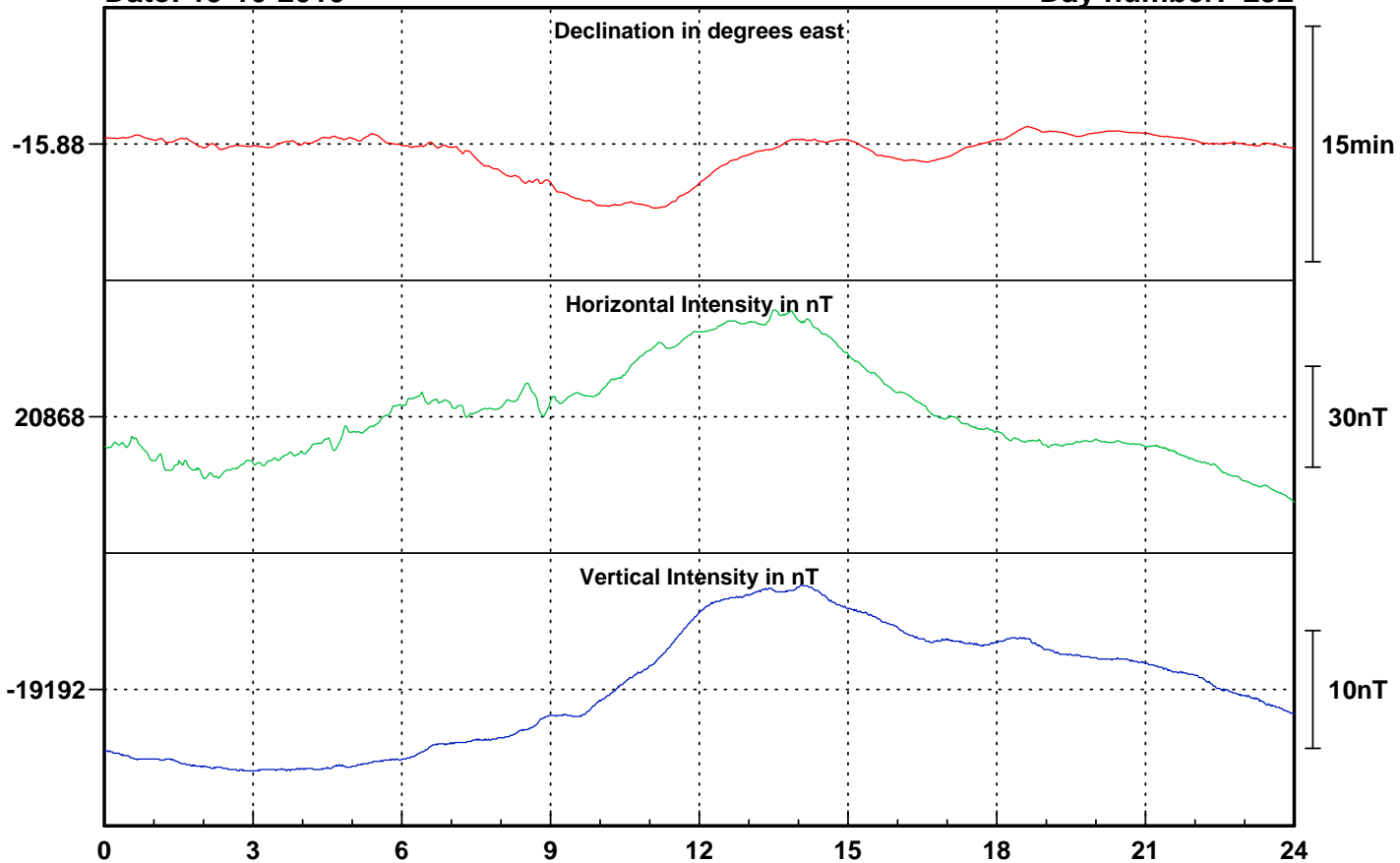
Day number: 291



Date: 19-10-2010

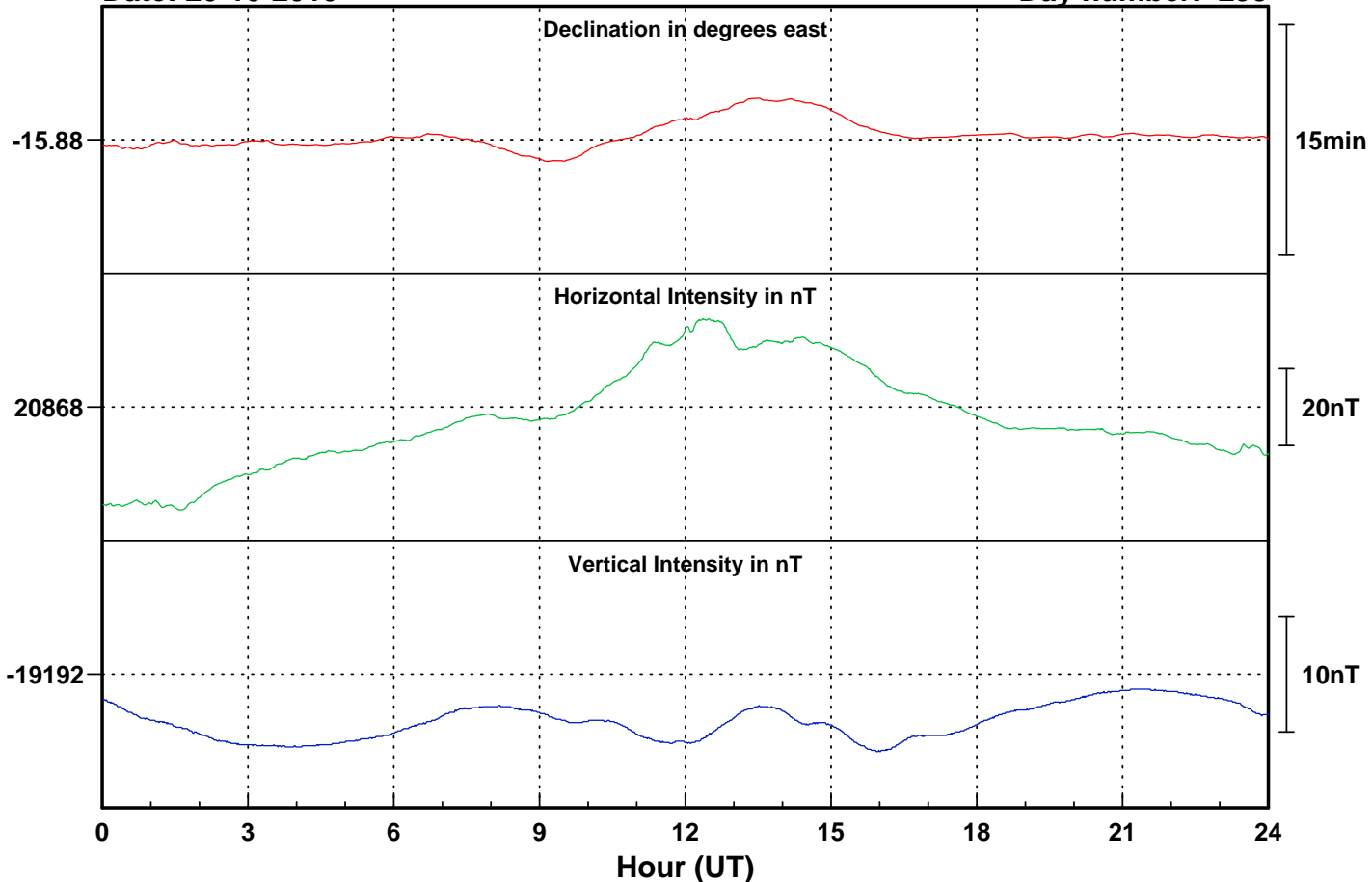
Ascension Island

Day number: 292



Date: 20-10-2010

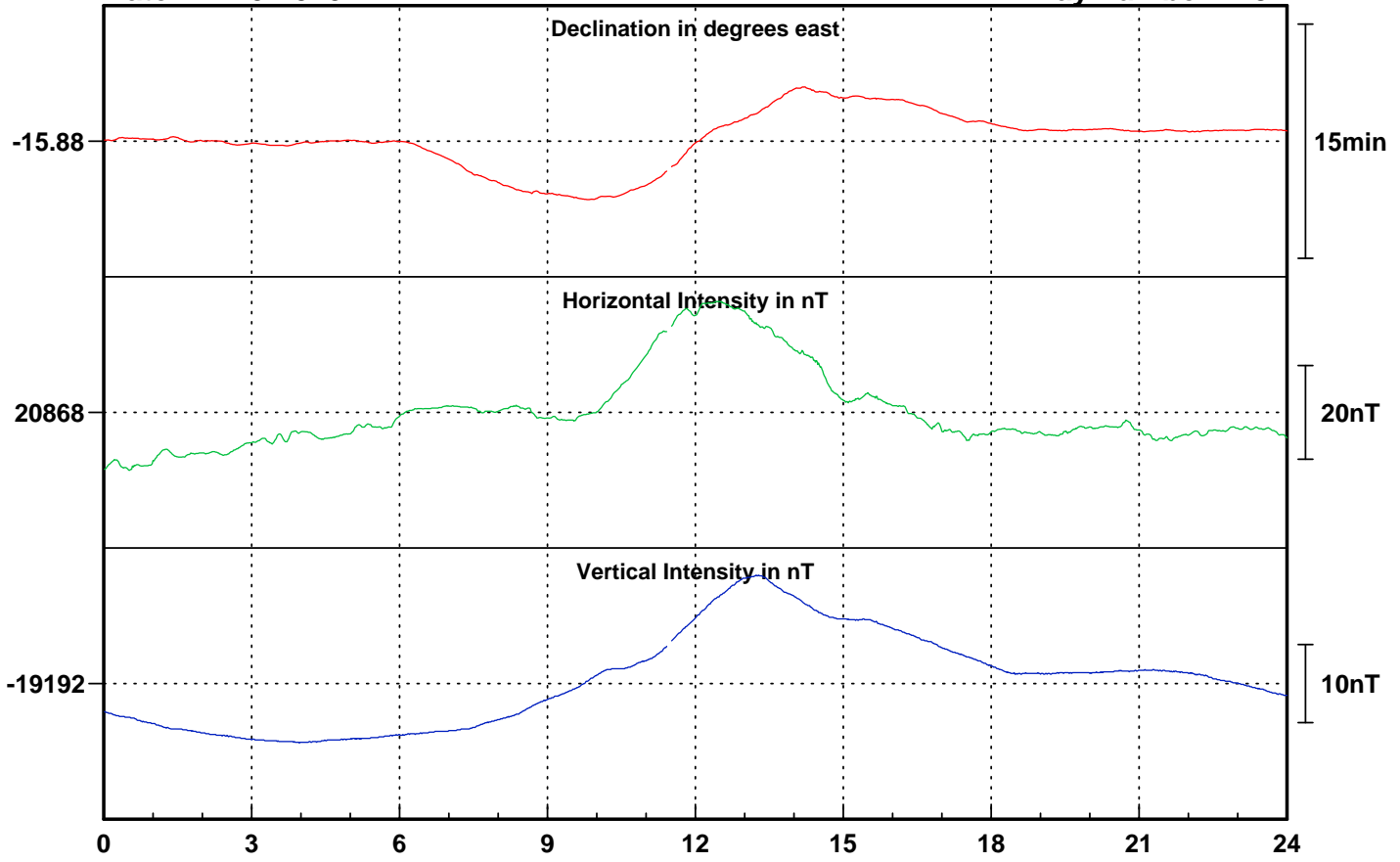
Day number: 293



Date: 21-10-2010

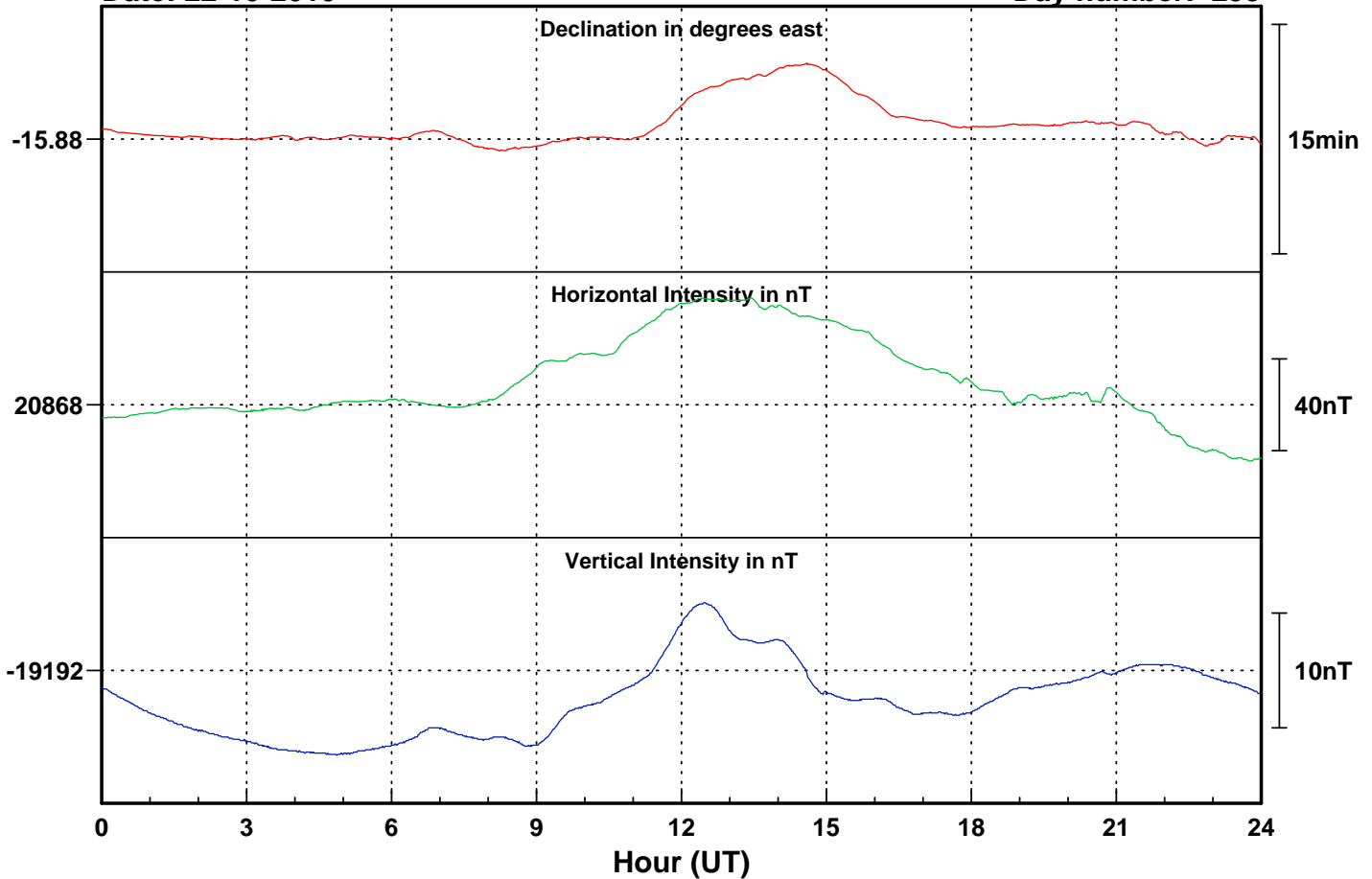
Ascension Island

Day number: 294



Date: 22-10-2010

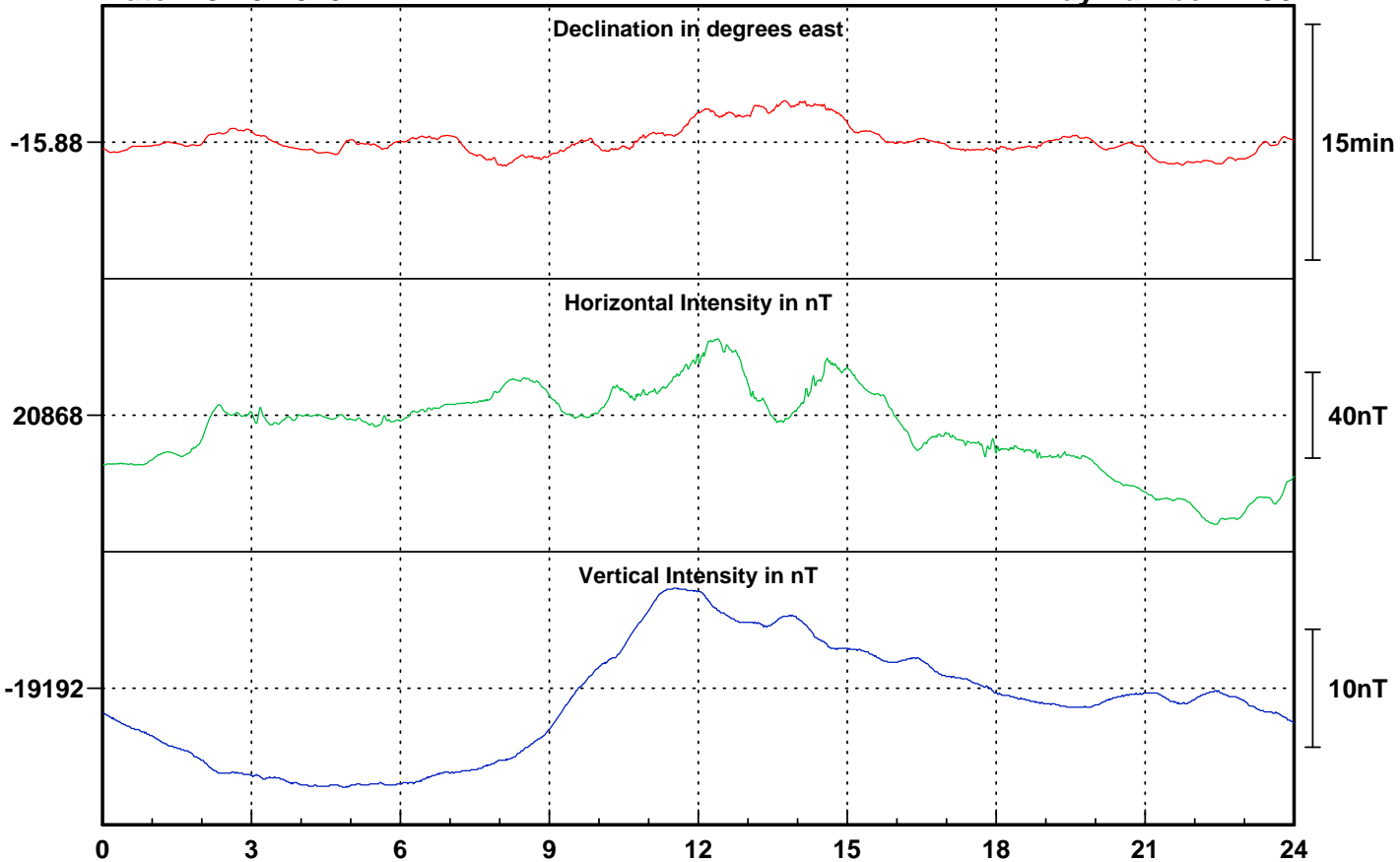
Day number: 295



Date: 23-10-2010

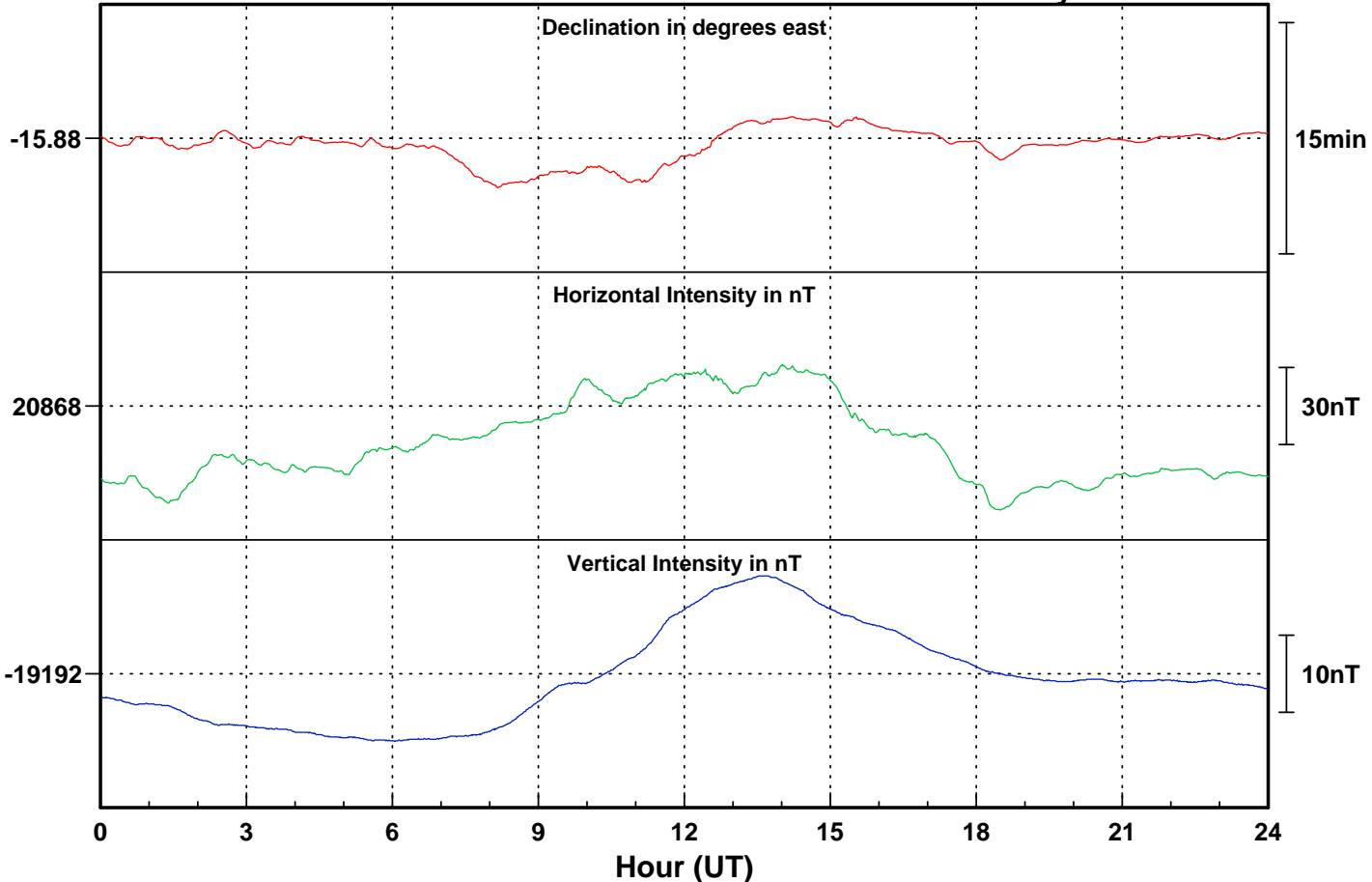
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Day number: 296



Date: 24-10-2010

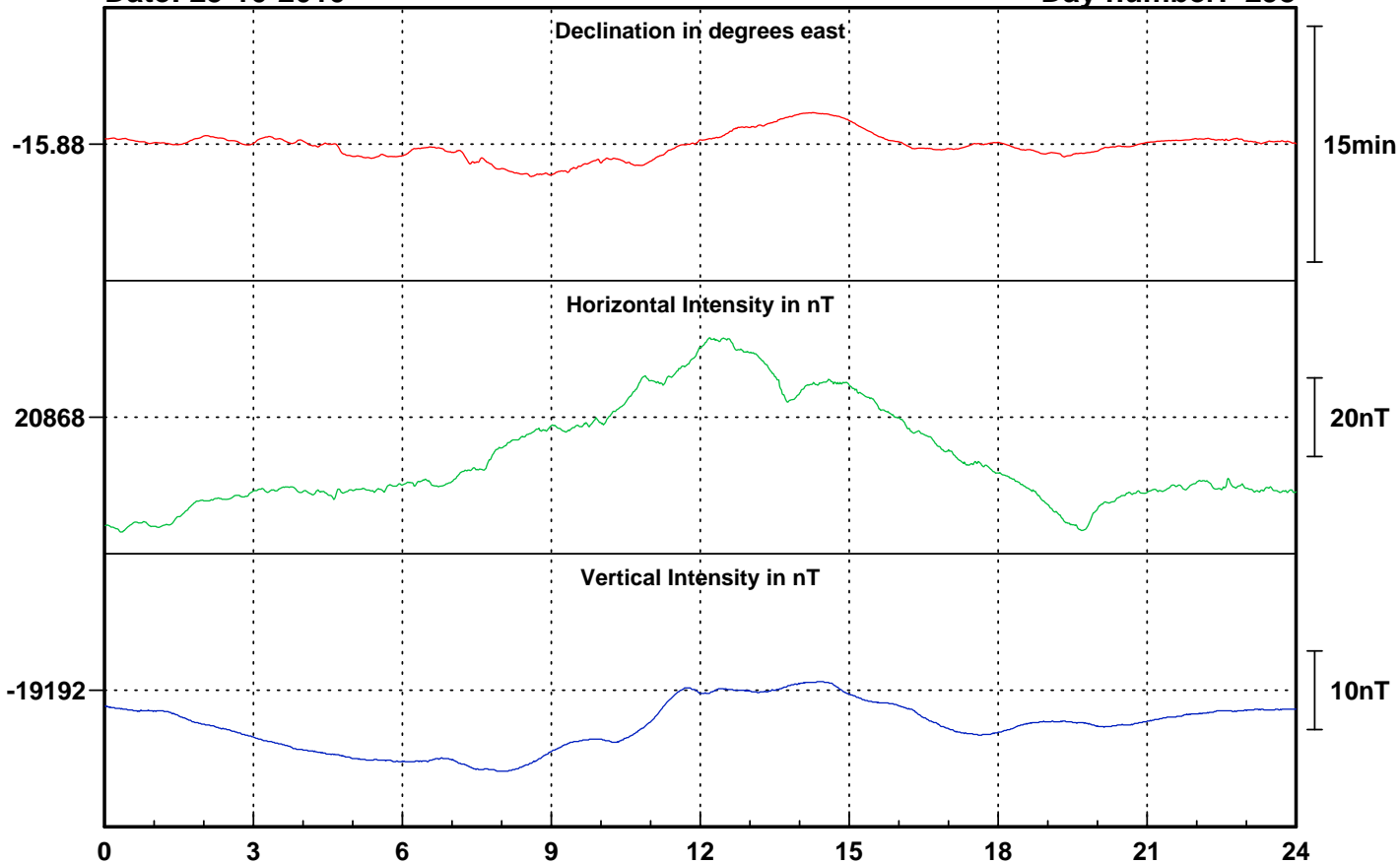
Day number: 297



Date: 25-10-2010

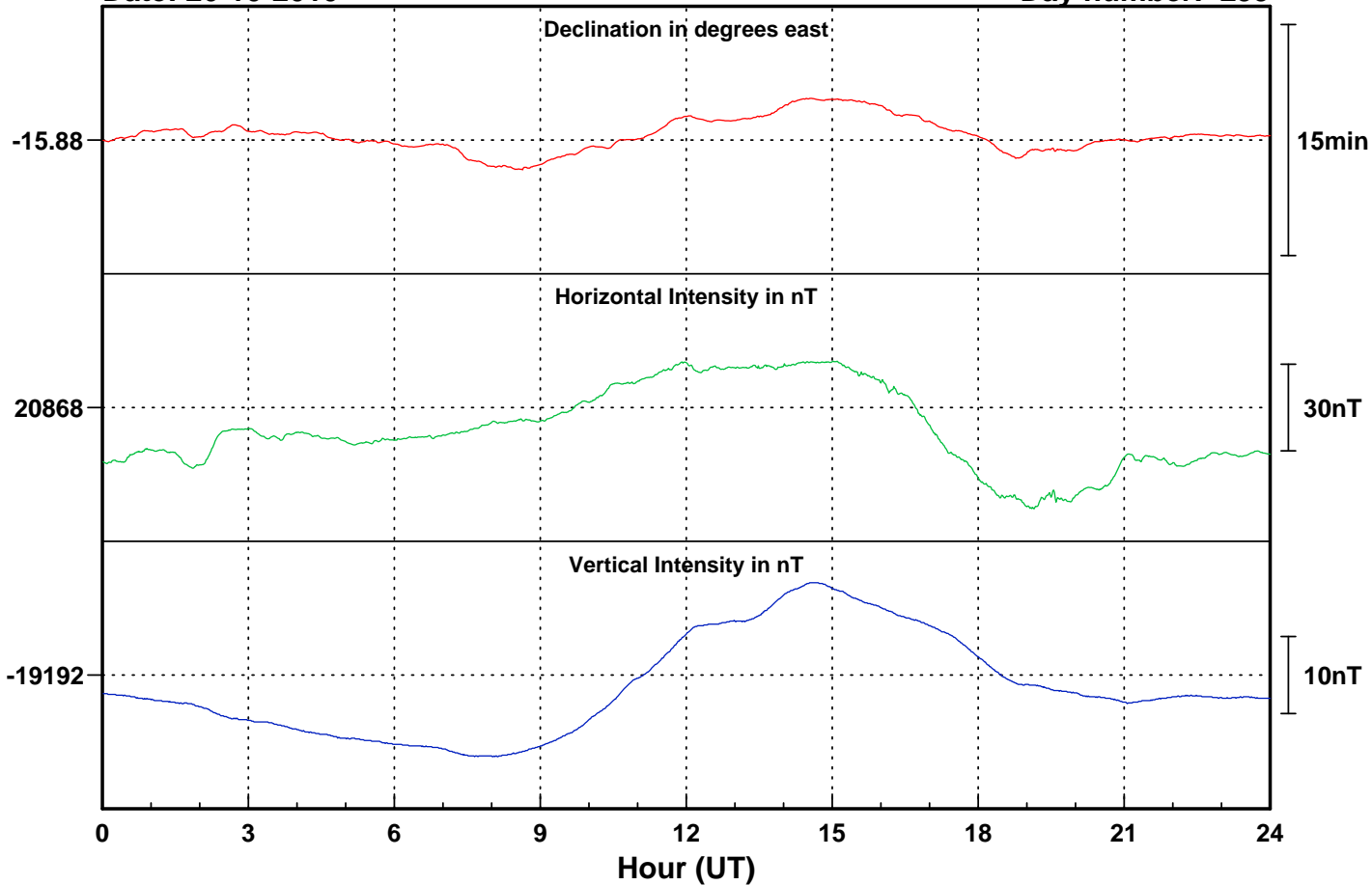
Ascension Island

Day number: 298



Date: 26-10-2010

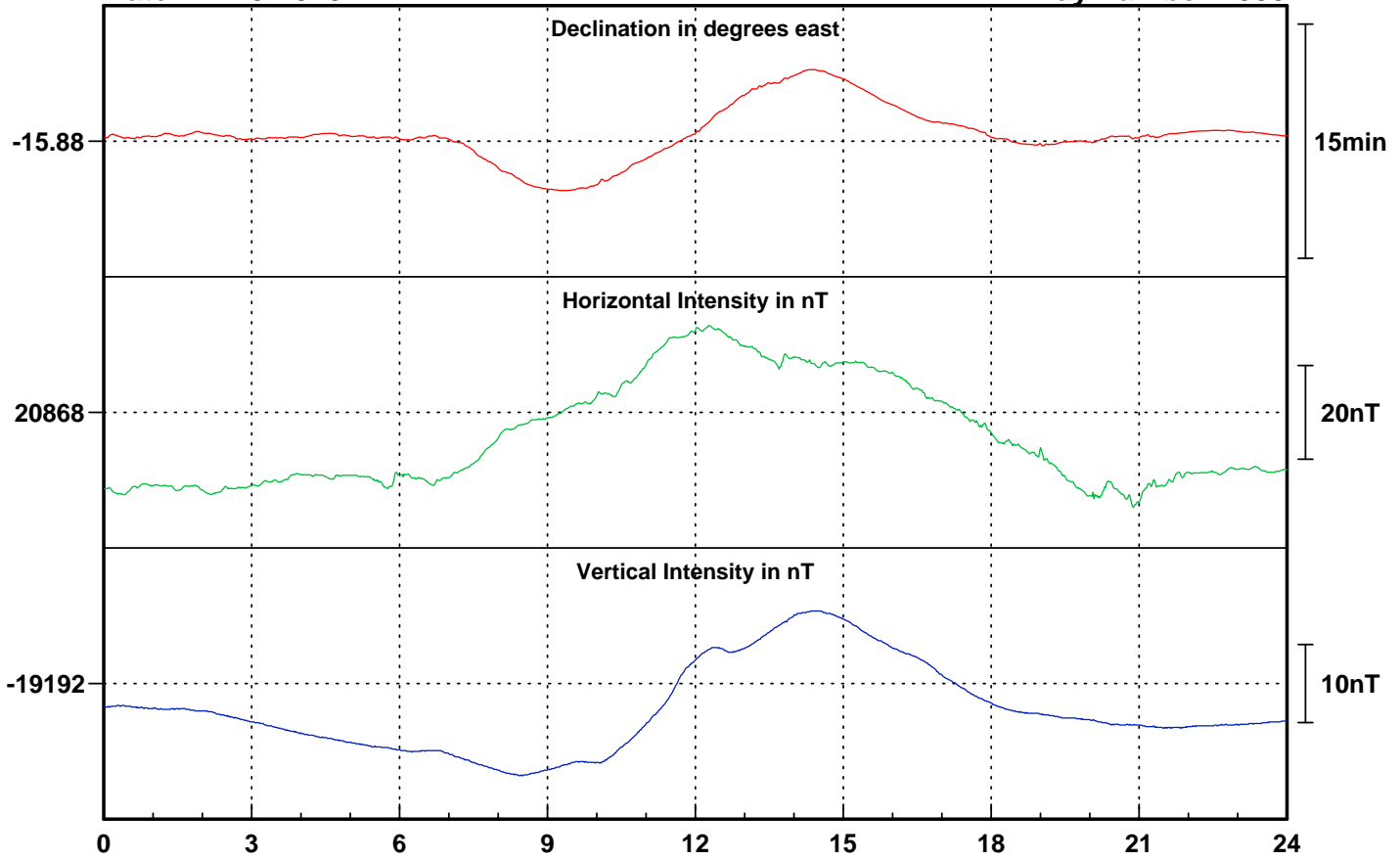
Day number: 299



Date: 27-10-2010

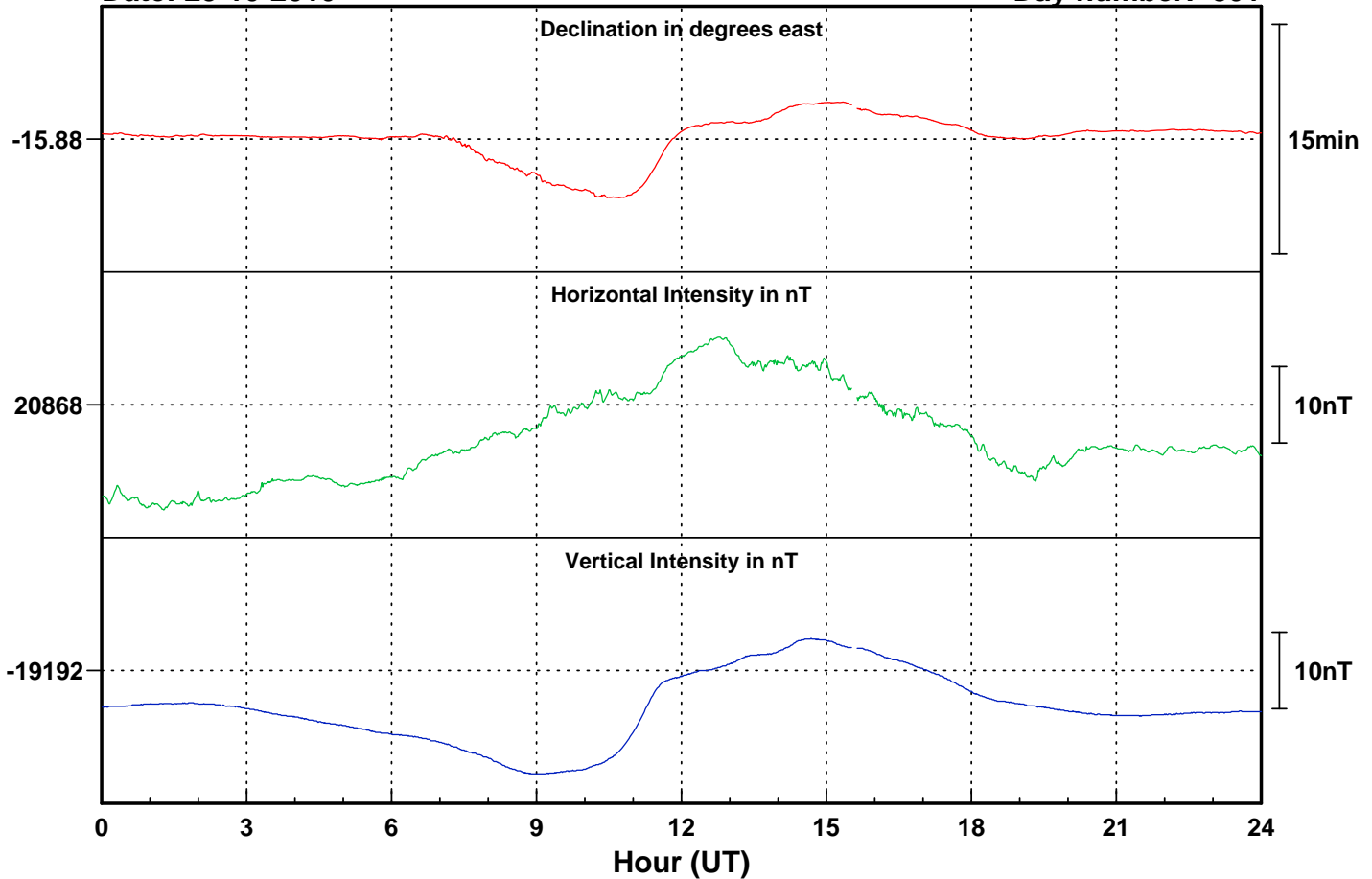
Ascension Island

Day number: 300



Date: 28-10-2010

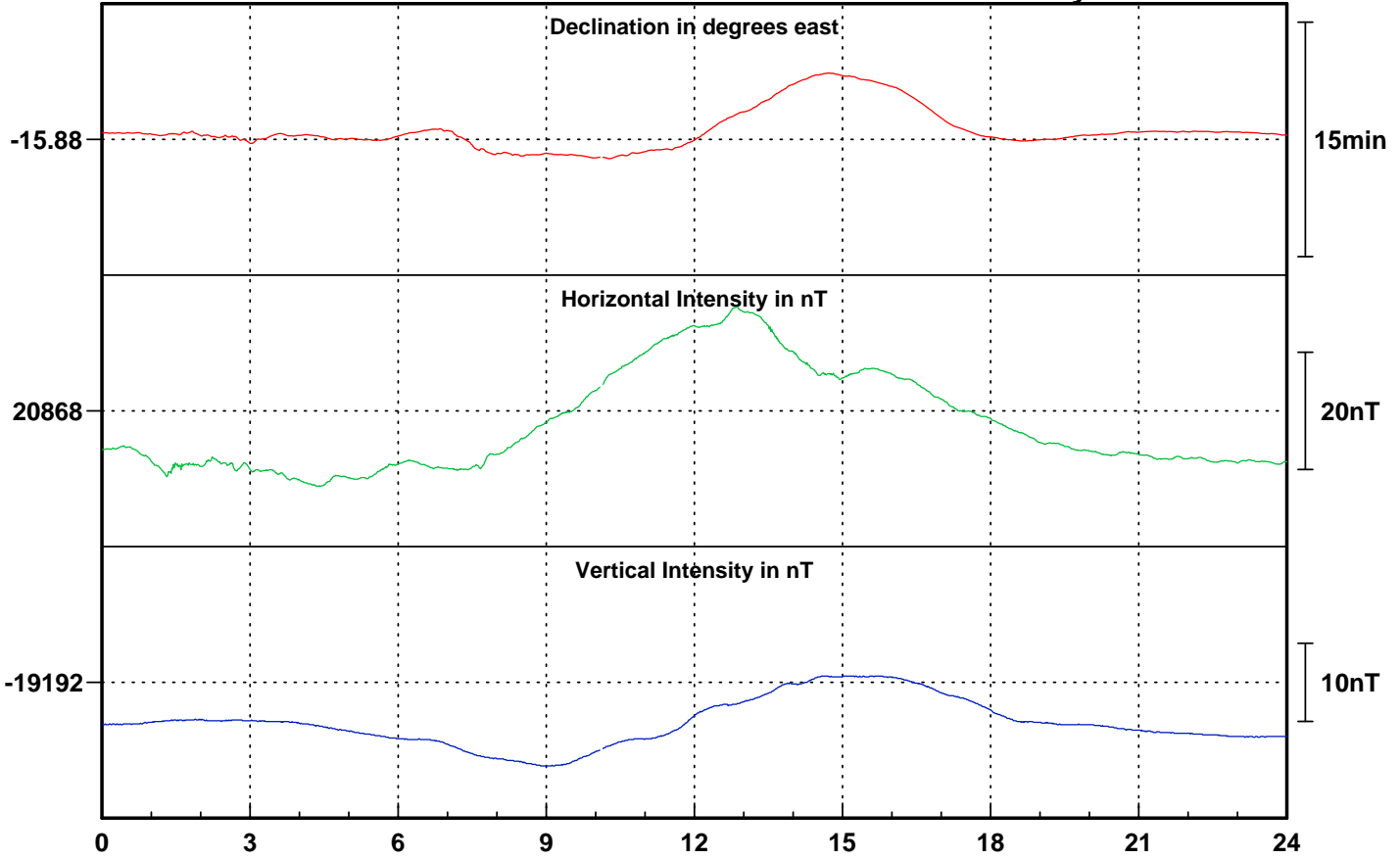
Day number: 301



Date: 29-10-2010

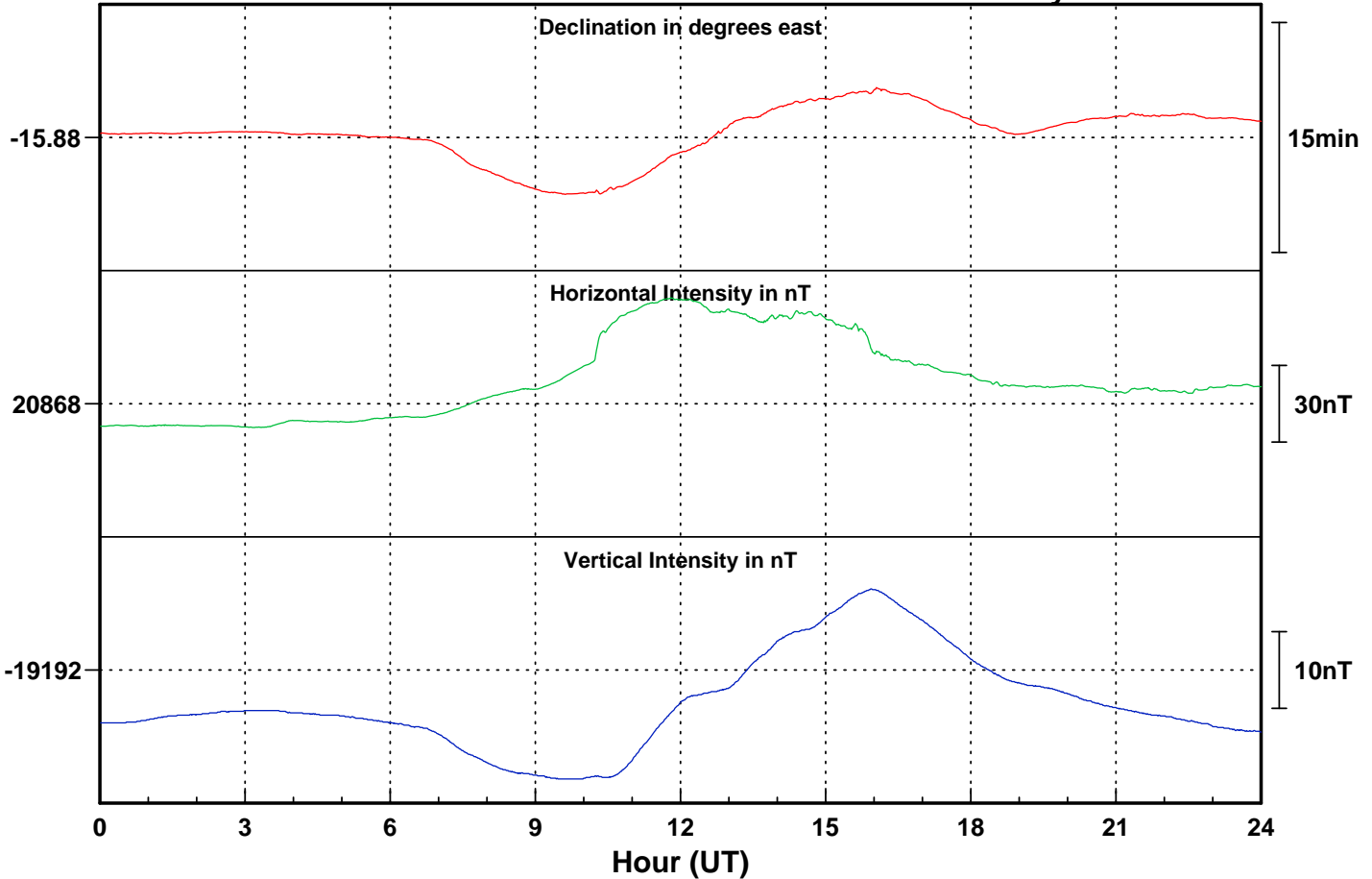
Ascension Island

Day number: 302



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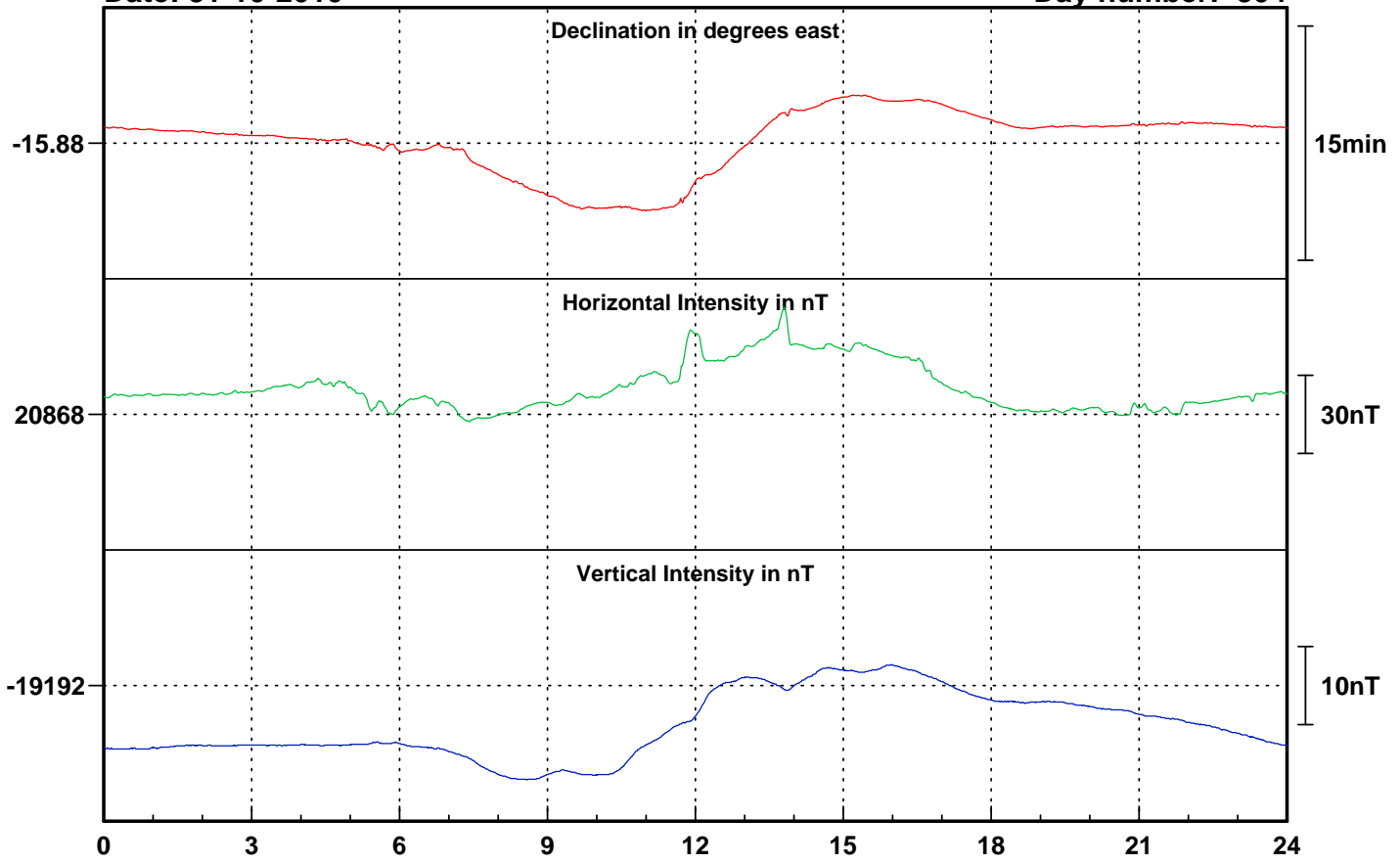
Day number: 303



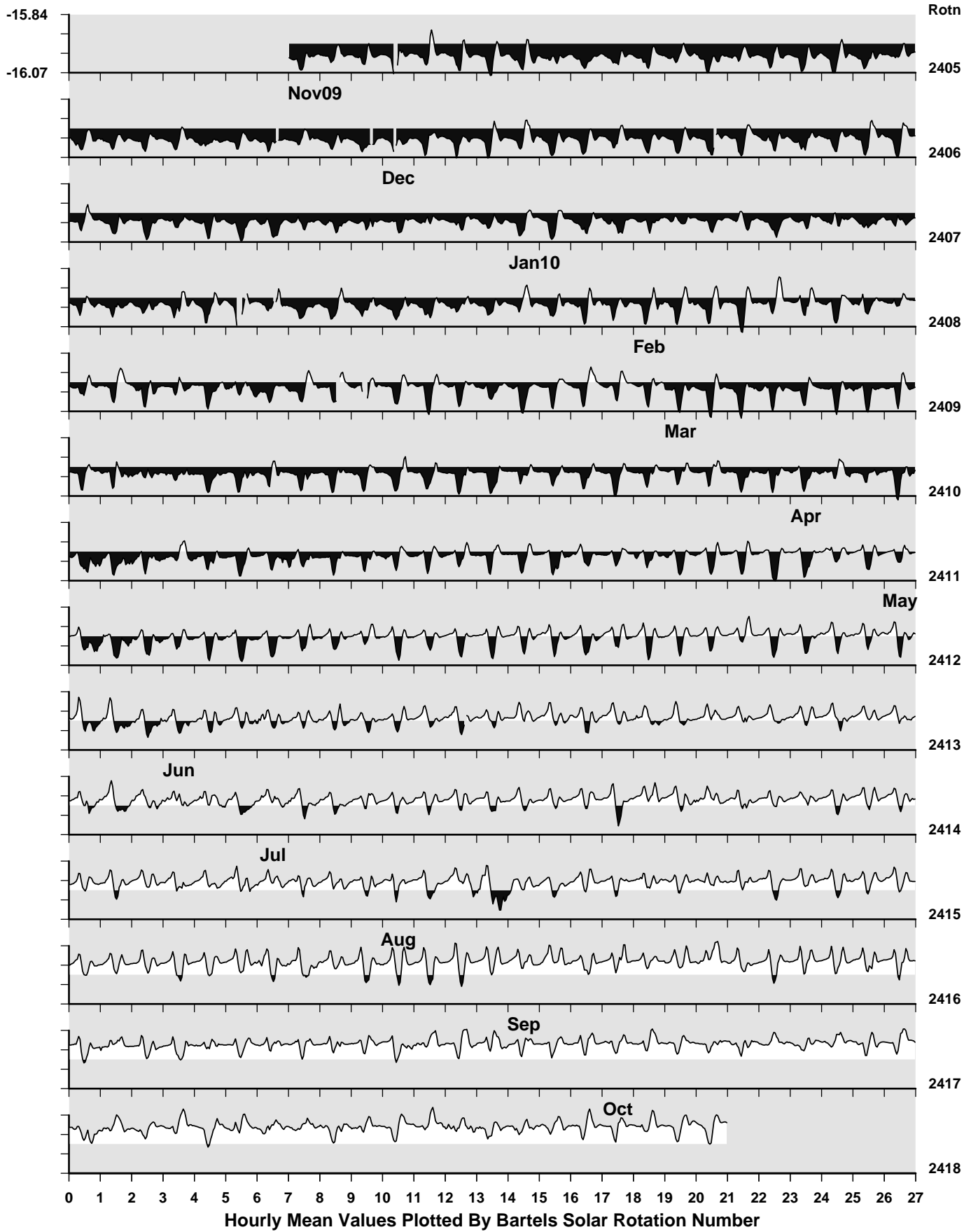
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Ascension Island

Day number: 304

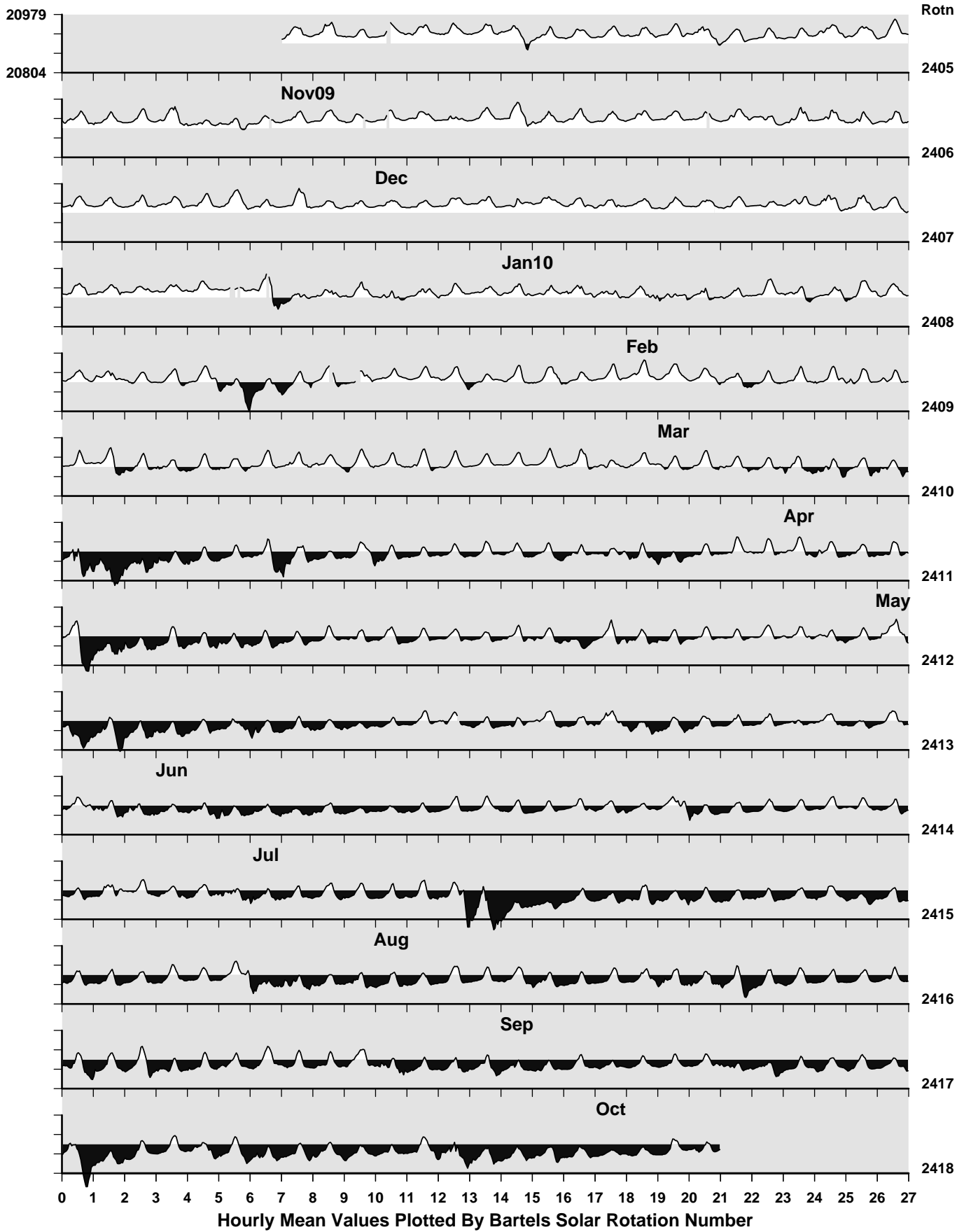


Ascension Island Observatory: Declination (degrees)

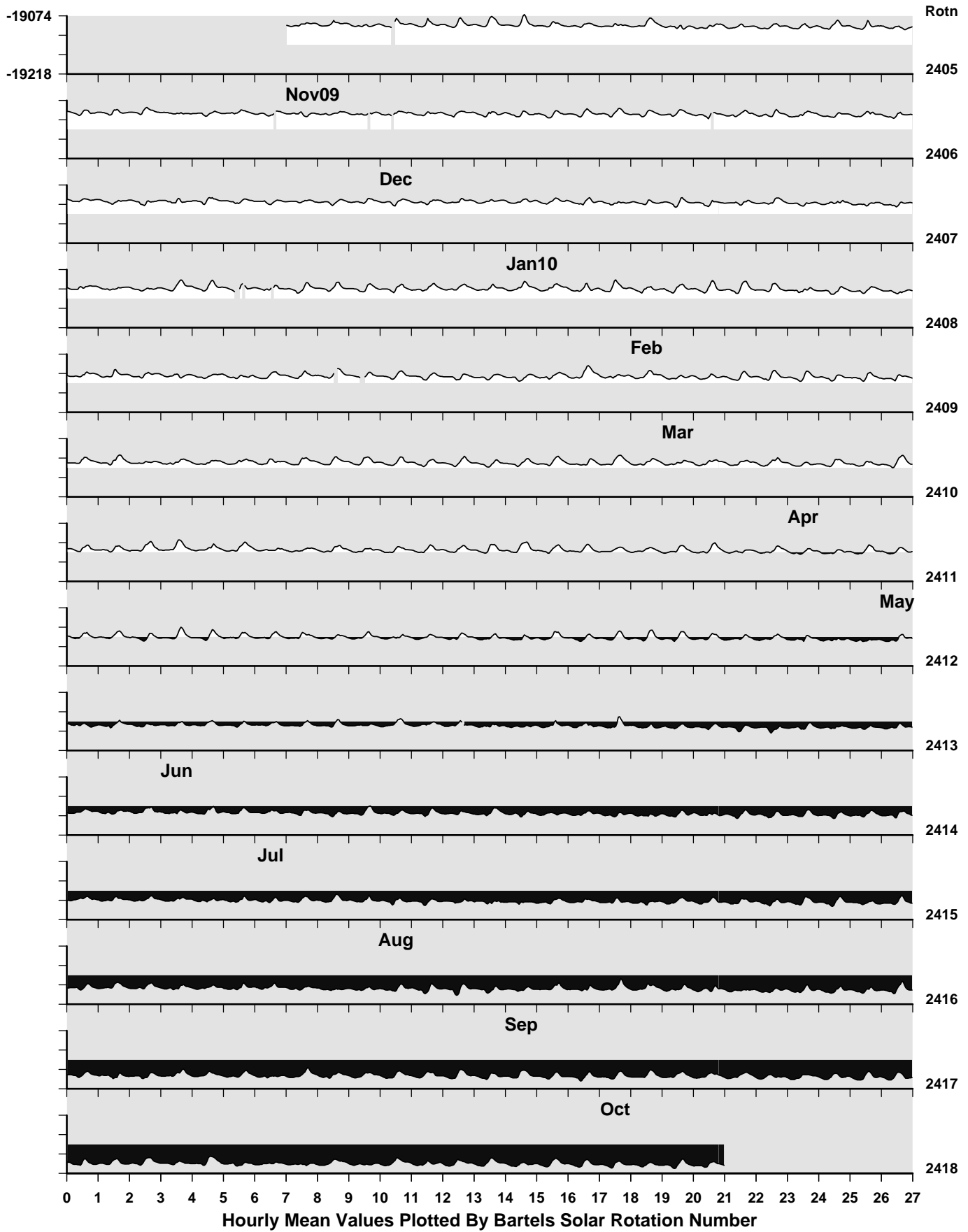


Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

Ascension Island Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT)

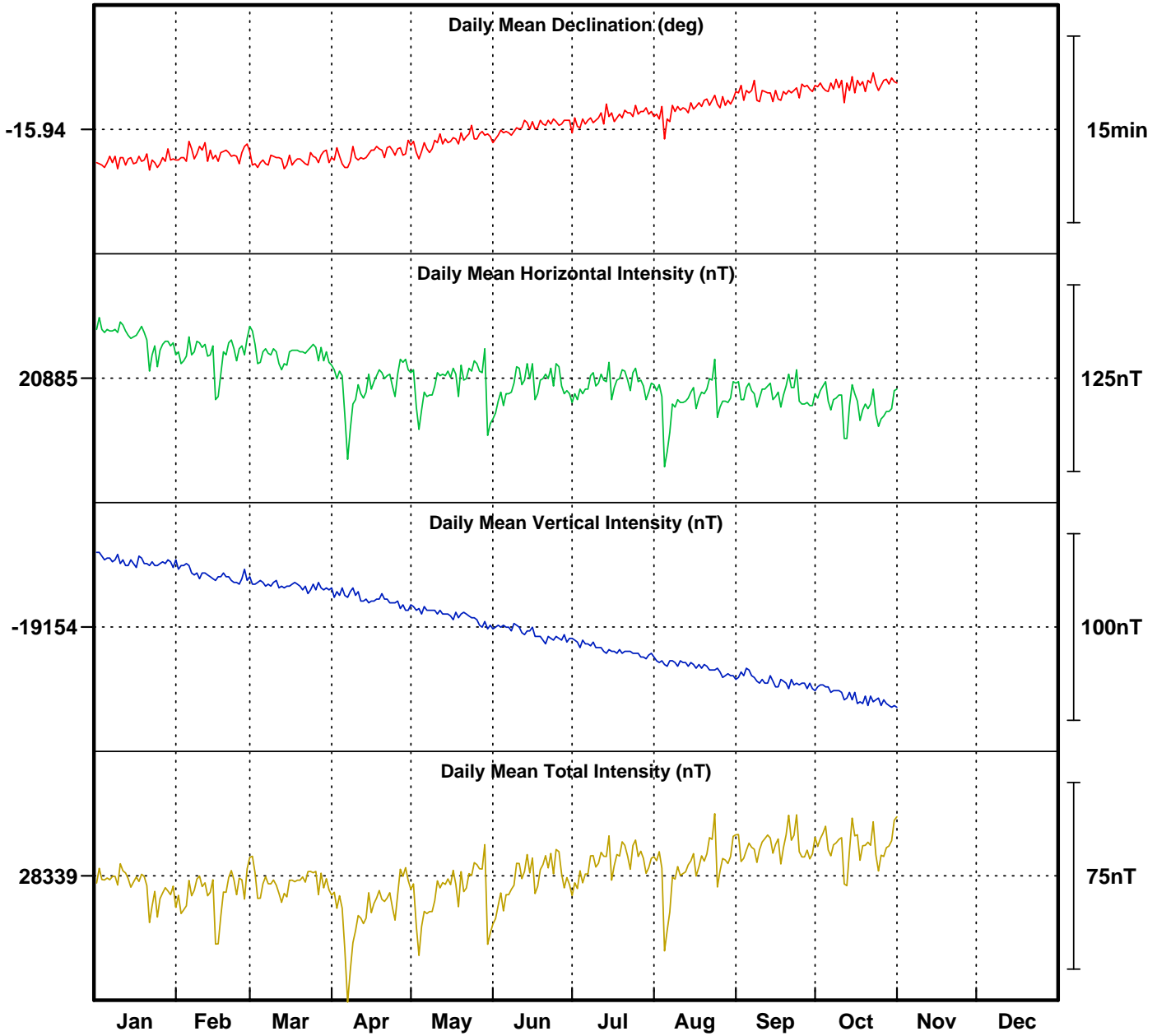


Ascension Island Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)



Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

Ascension Is Observatory 2010



Monthly Mean Values for Ascension Island Observatory 2010

| Month | <i>D</i> | <i>H</i> | <i>I</i> | <i>X</i> | <i>Y</i> | <i>Z</i> | <i>F</i> |
|-----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| January | -15° 59.2′ | 20912 nT | -42° 26.1′ | 20104 nT | -5759 nT | -19119 nT | 28335 nT |
| February | -15° 58.6′ | 20902 nT | -42° 27.6′ | 20095 nT | -5753 nT | -19126 nT | 28332 nT |
| March | -15° 59.1′ | 20902 nT | -42° 28.1′ | 20093 nT | -5756 nT | -19132 nT | 28336 nT |
| April | -15° 58.6′ | 20881 nT | -42° 30.5′ | 20074 nT | -5747 nT | -19139 nT | 28325 nT |
| May | -15° 57.6′ | 20881 nT | -42° 31.3′ | 20076 nT | -5741 nT | -19148 nT | 28331 nT |
| June | -15° 56.4′ | 20881 nT | -42° 32.1′ | 20078 nT | -5735 nT | -19157 nT | 28338 nT |
| July | -15° 55.6′ | 20882 nT | -42° 32.8′ | 20080 nT | -5730 nT | -19166 nT | 28344 nT |
| August | -15° 54.8′ | 20871 nT | -42° 34.6′ | 20071 nT | -5723 nT | -19176 nT | 28342 nT |
| September | -15° 53.6′ | 20875 nT | -42° 34.9′ | 20077 nT | -5717 nT | -19183 nT | 28351 nT |
| October | -15° 53.0′ | 20868 nT | -42° 36.2′ | 20071 nT | -5711 nT | -19192 nT | 28351 nT |

Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.