

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Ascension Island

Observatory

Monthly

Magnetic

Bulletin

March 2006

06/03/AS



British Geological Survey

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

ASCENSION ISLAND OBSERVATORY MAGNETIC DATA

1.1 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.

Enquiries about the data should be addressed to:

National Geomagnetic Service
British Geological Survey
Murchison House, West Mains Road
Edinburgh EH9 3LA
Scotland, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 131 667 1000

Fax: +4 (0) 131 668 4368

E-mail: orba@bgs.ac.uk

Internet: www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk

1.2 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:

Geographic: $7^{\circ}57.0'S$ $345^{\circ}37.4'E$
Geomagnetic: $2^{\circ}07.2'S$ $55^{\circ}03.9'E$
Height above mean sea level: 177 m

The geomagnetic co-ordinates are calculated using the 10th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field at epoch 2006.5.

1.3 The Observatory Operation

1.3.1 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.

1.4 Data Presentation

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

1.4.1 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.

1.4.2 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.

1.4.3 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.

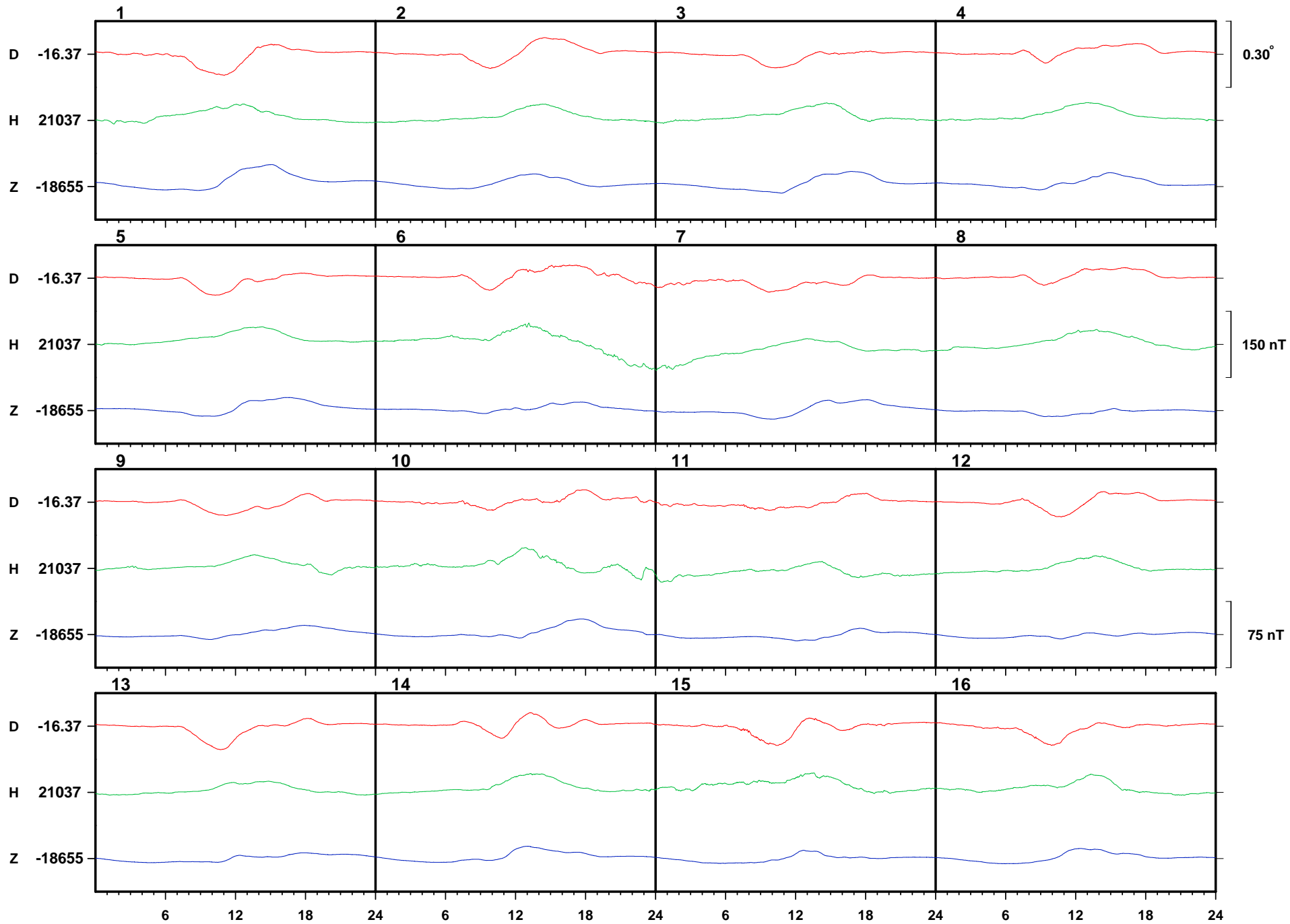
1.4.4 Daily and Monthly Mean Values

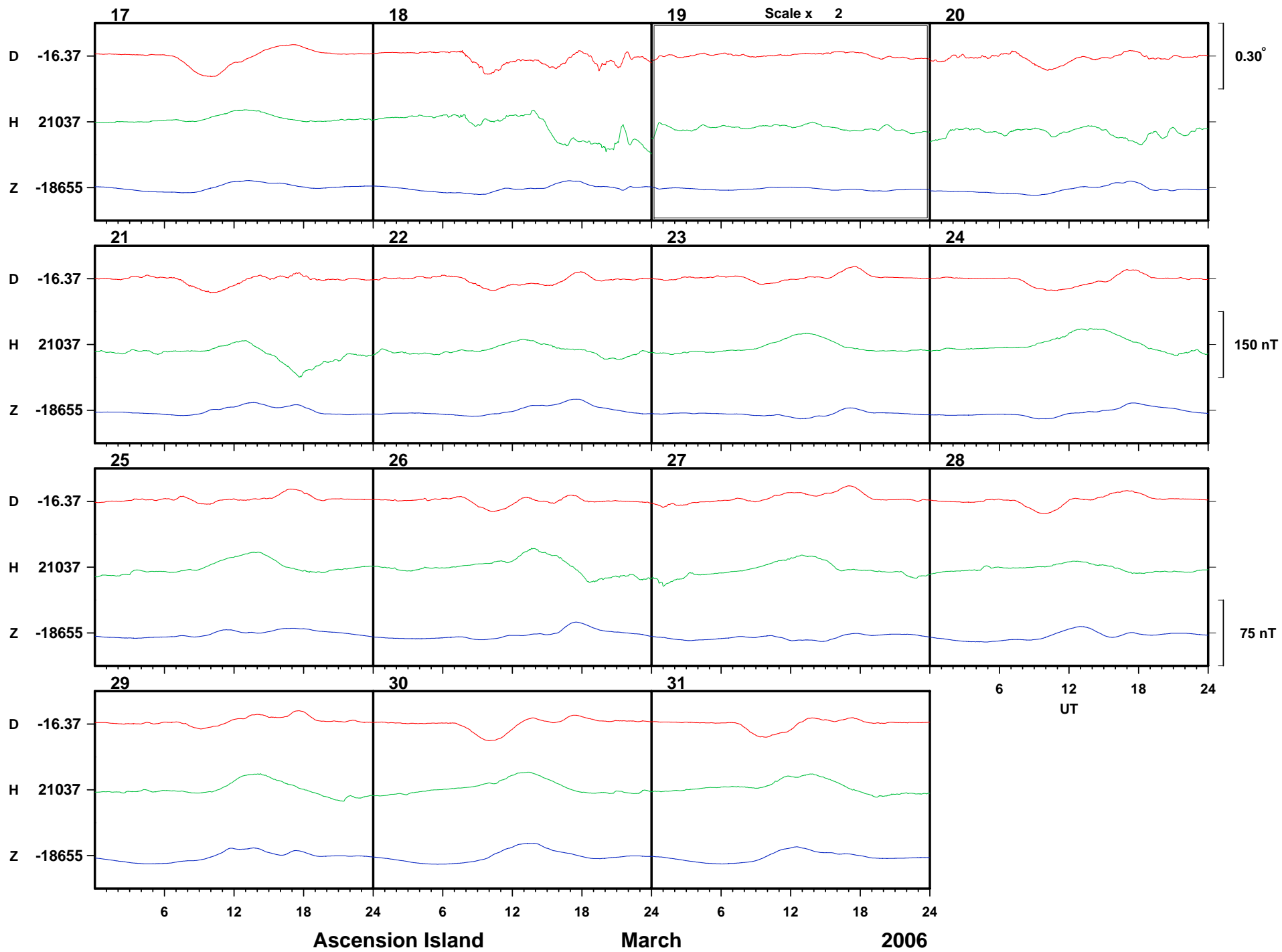
Daily mean values of D , H , Z and F are plotted throughout the year. In addition, a table of monthly mean values of all the geomagnetic elements is provided. These values depend on accurate specification of the fluxgate sensor baselines. This data is provisional. It is anticipated that provisional values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

Ascension Island

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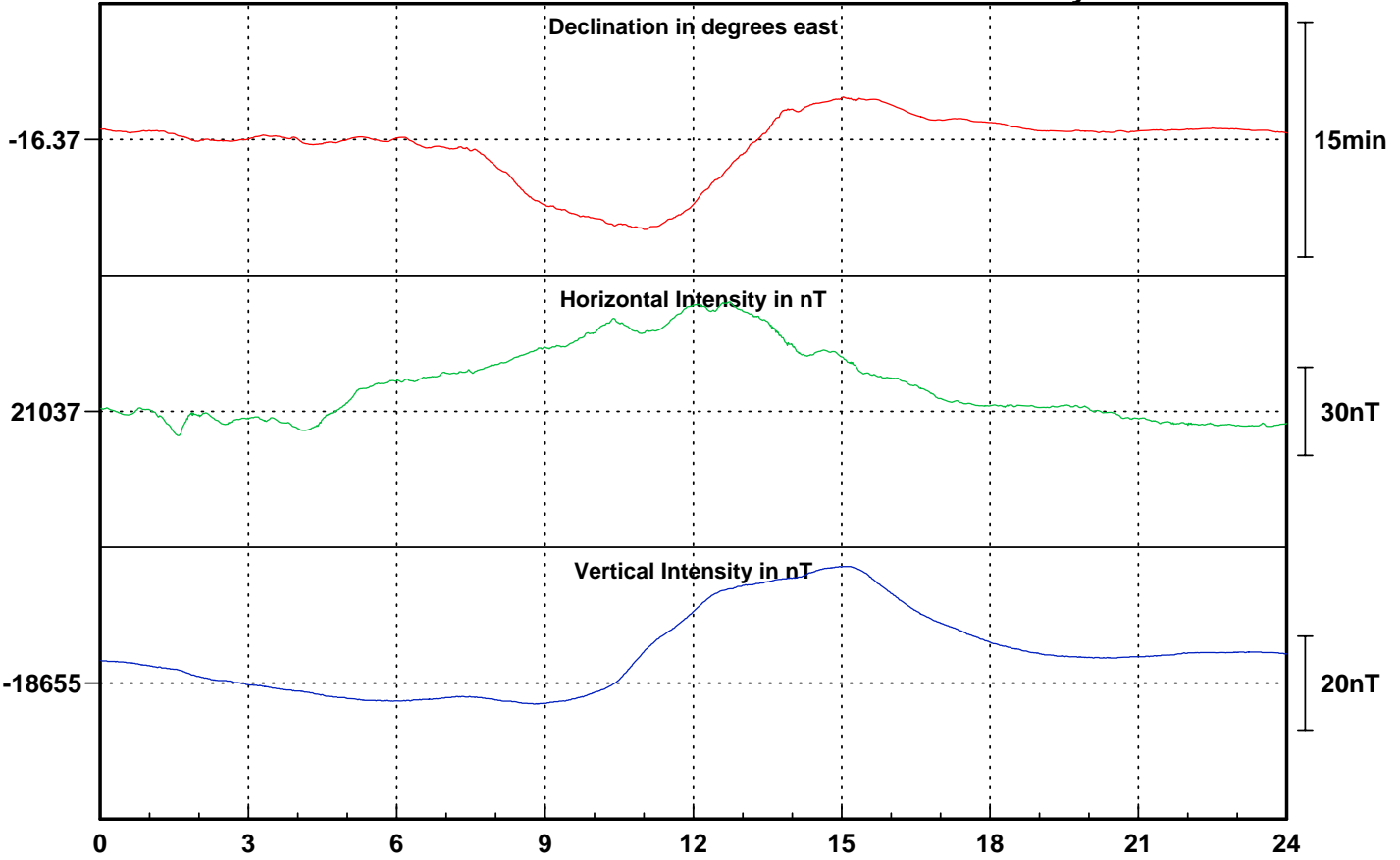




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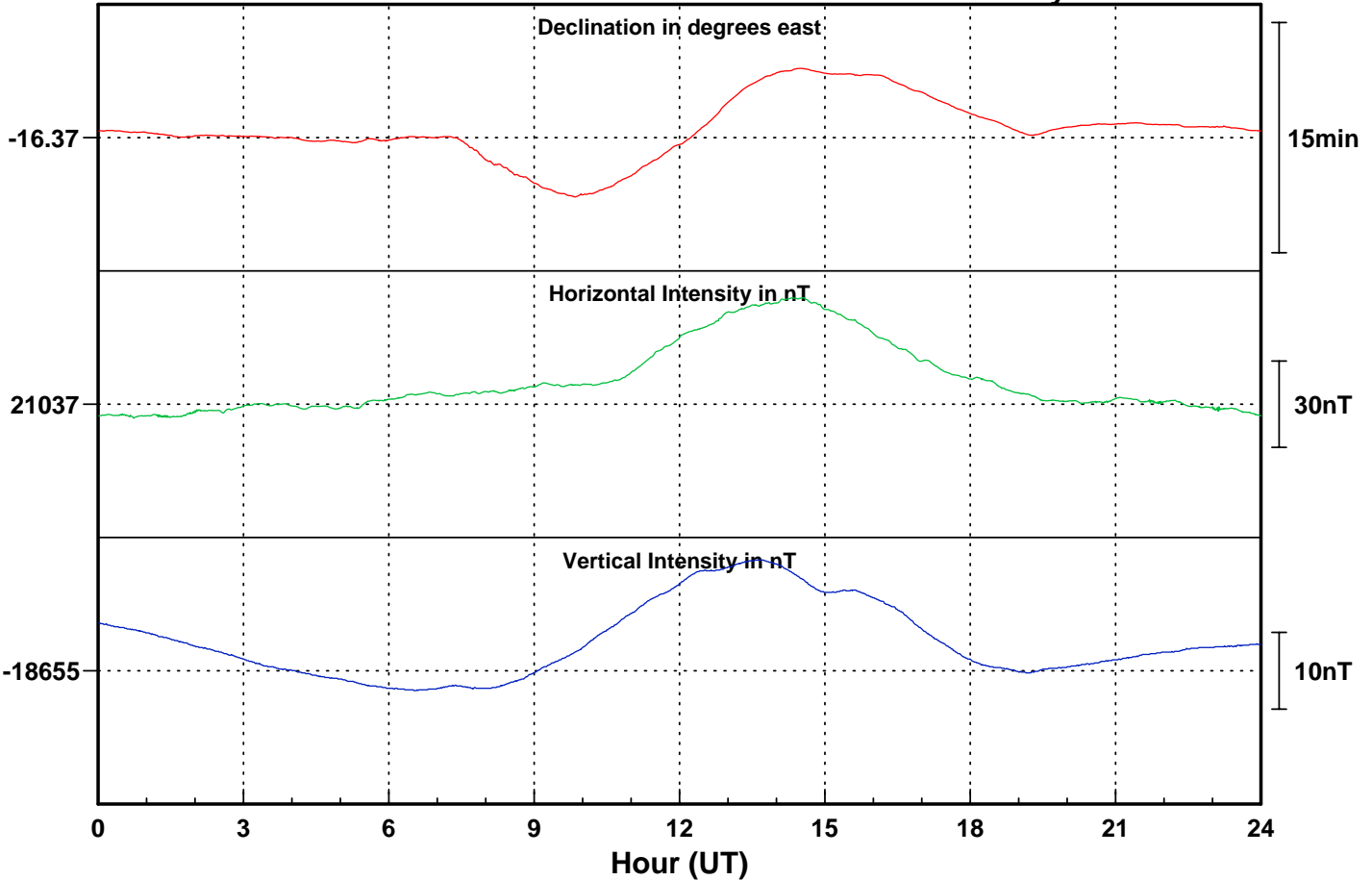
Ascension Island

Day number: 060



Date: 02-03-2006

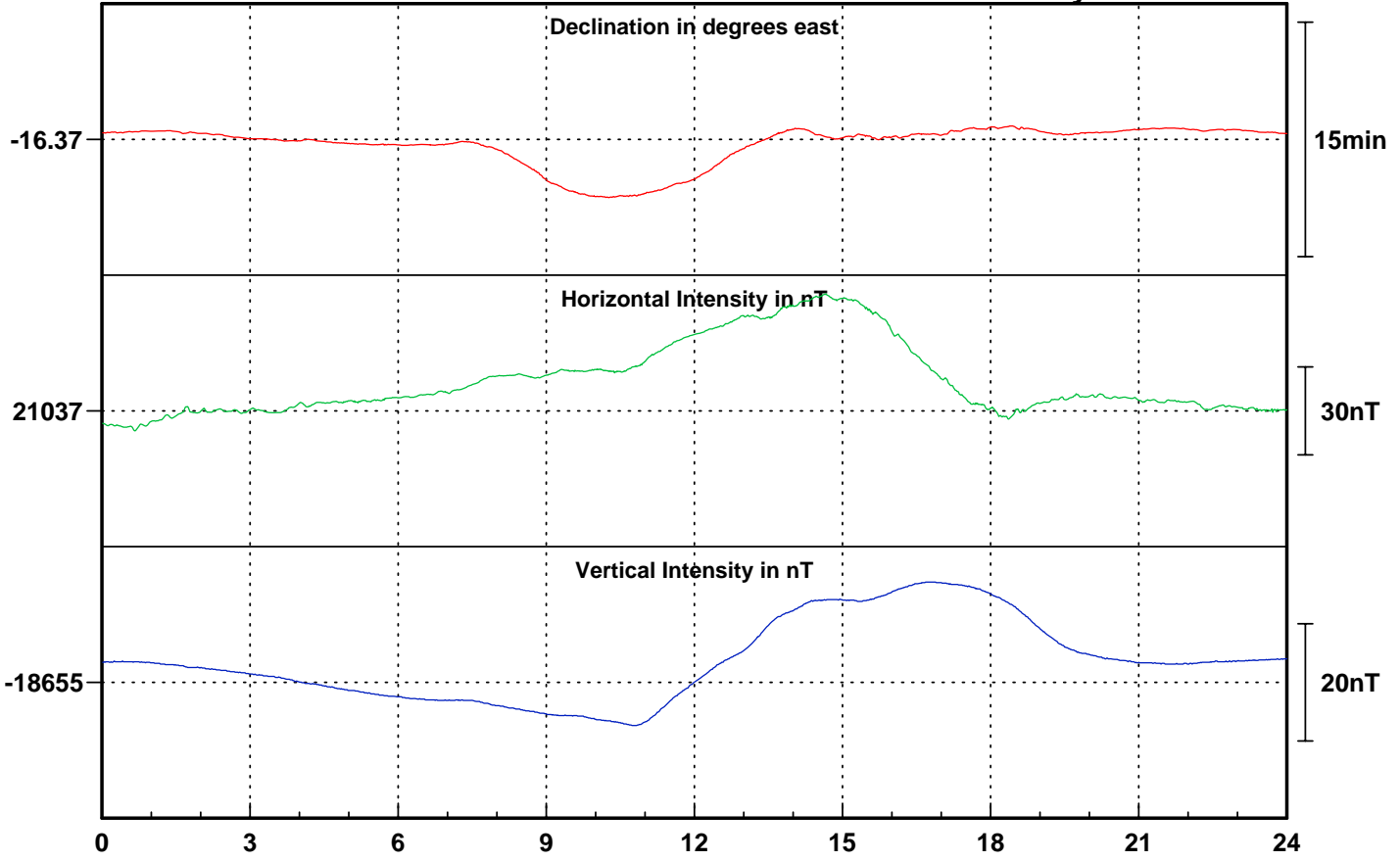
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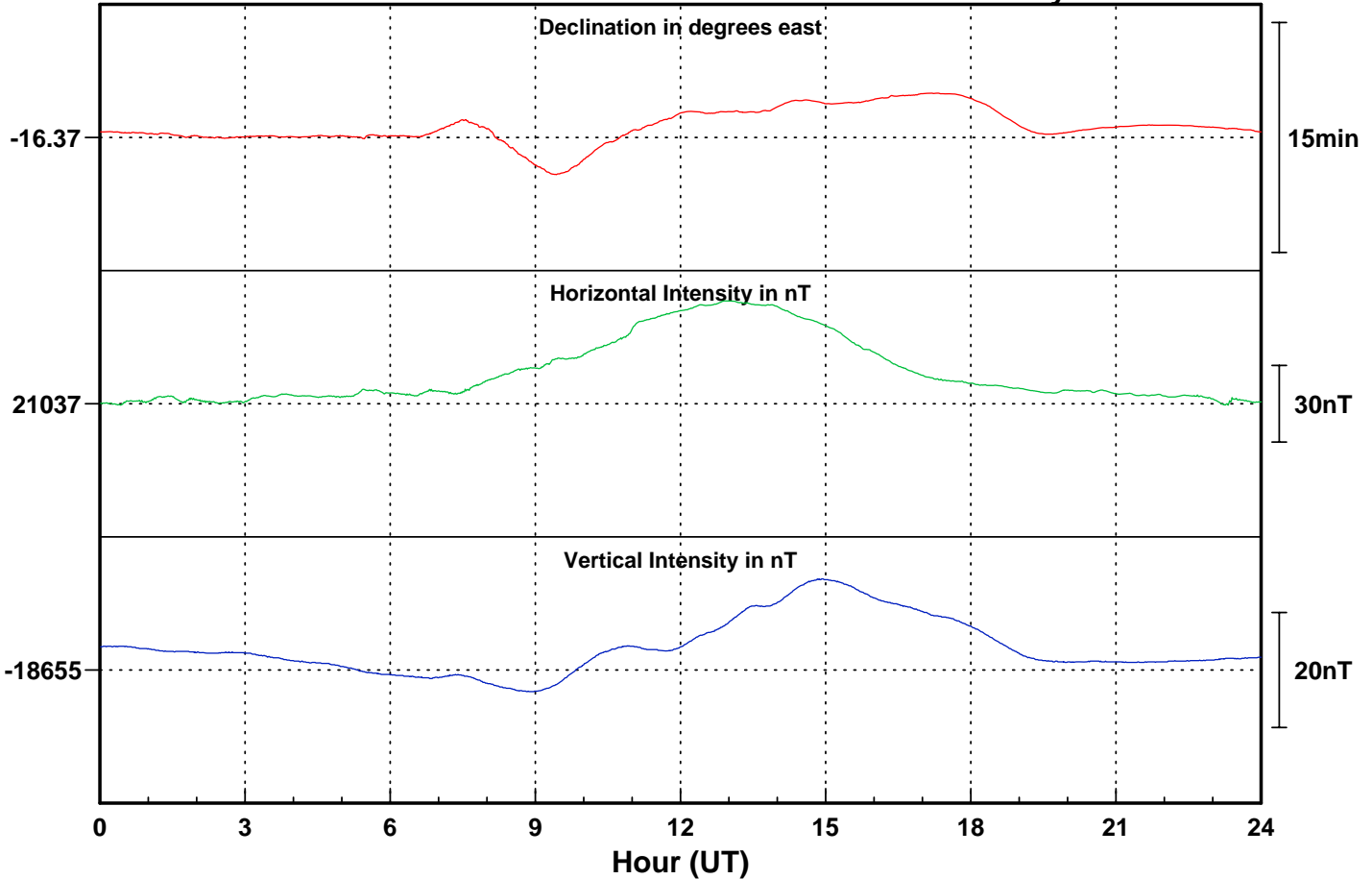
Ascension Island

Day number: 062



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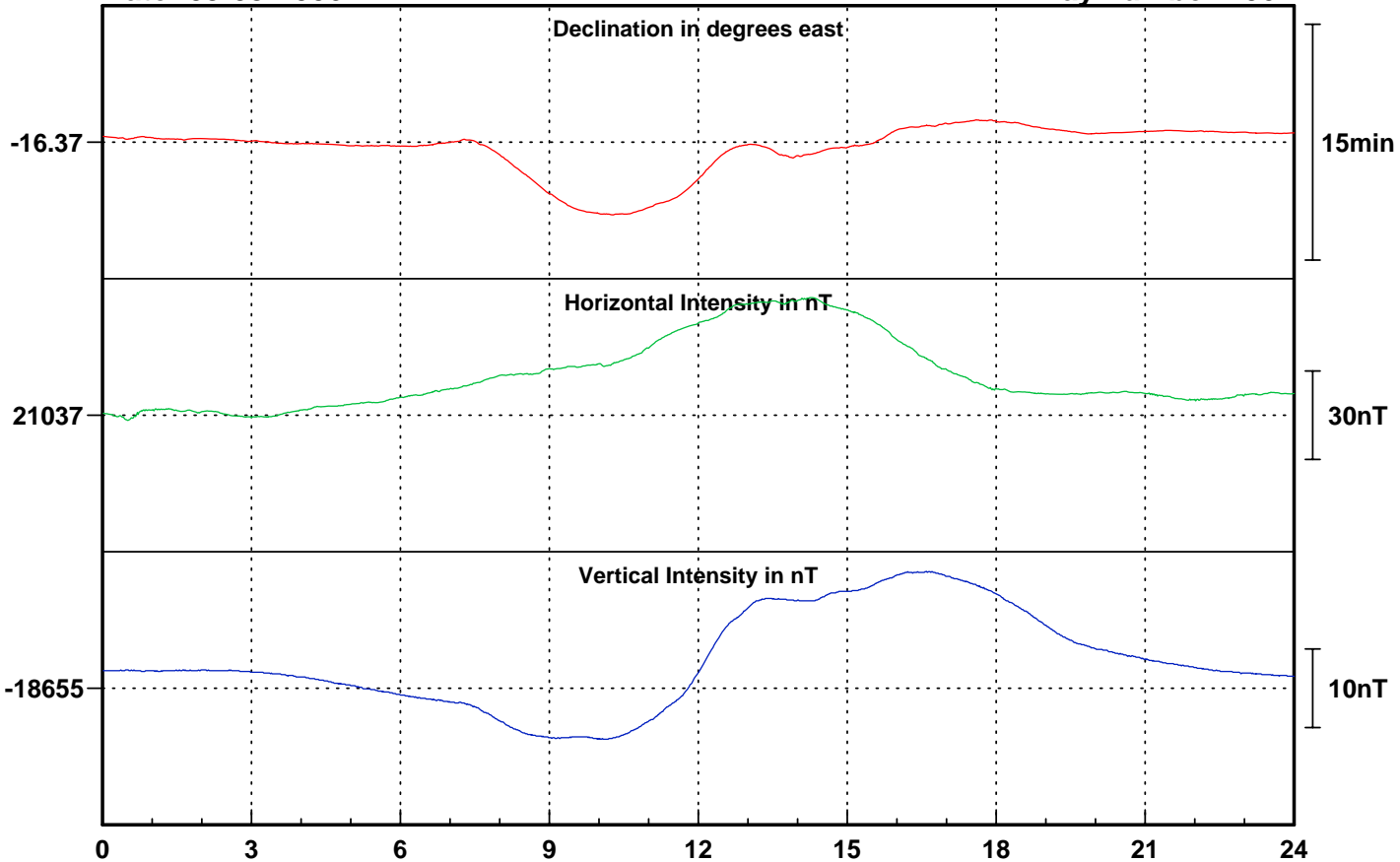
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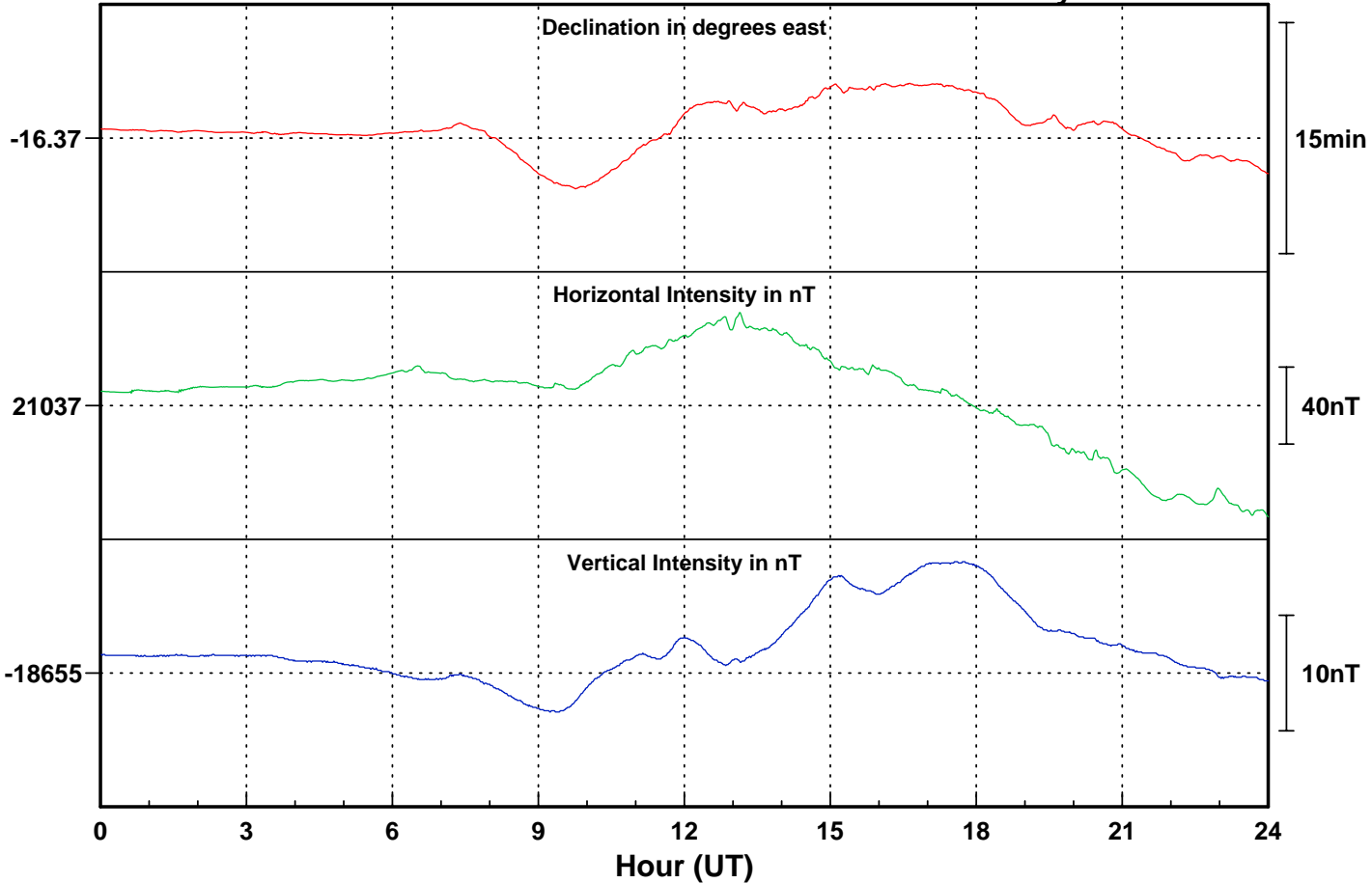
Ascension Island

Day number: 064



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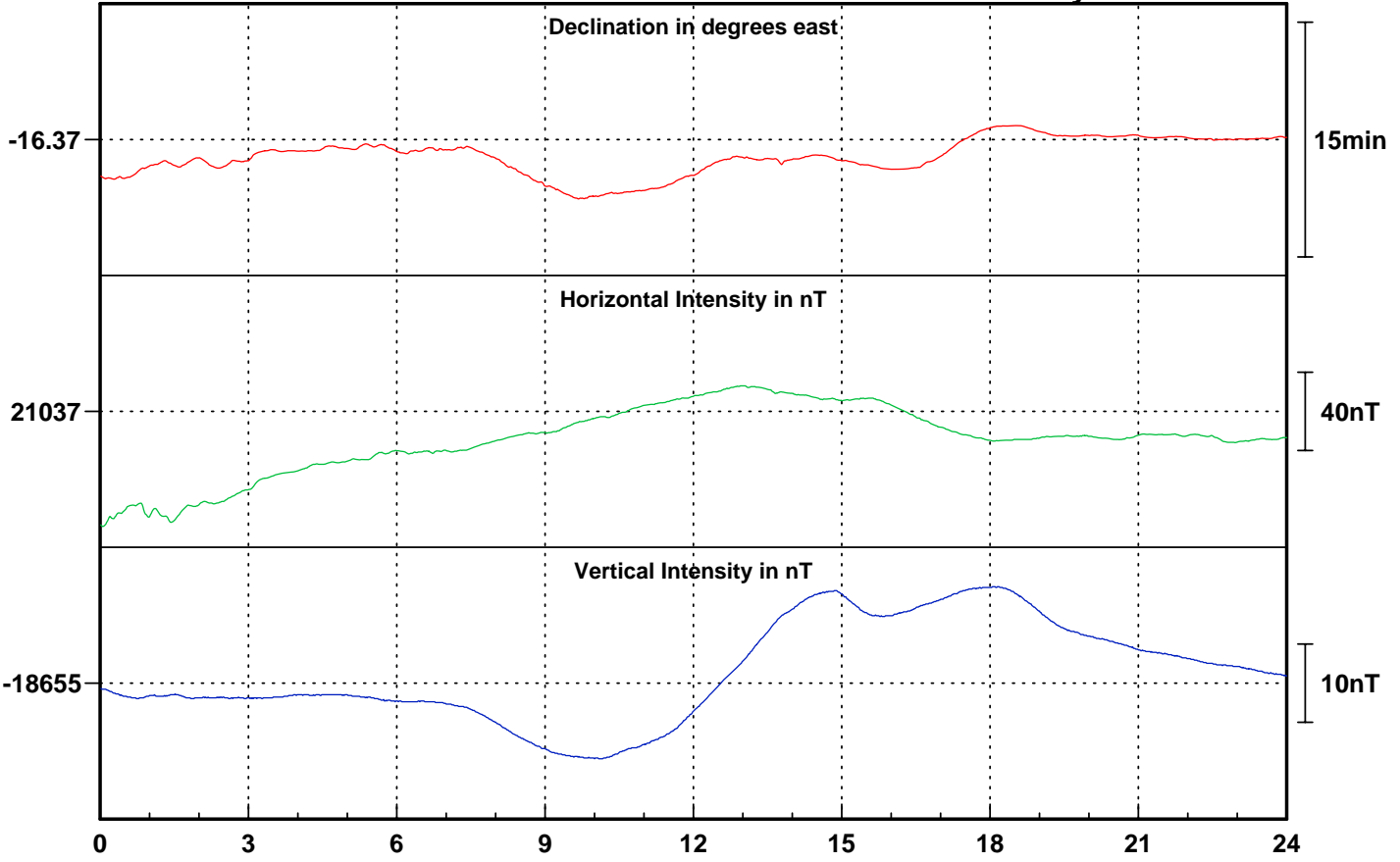
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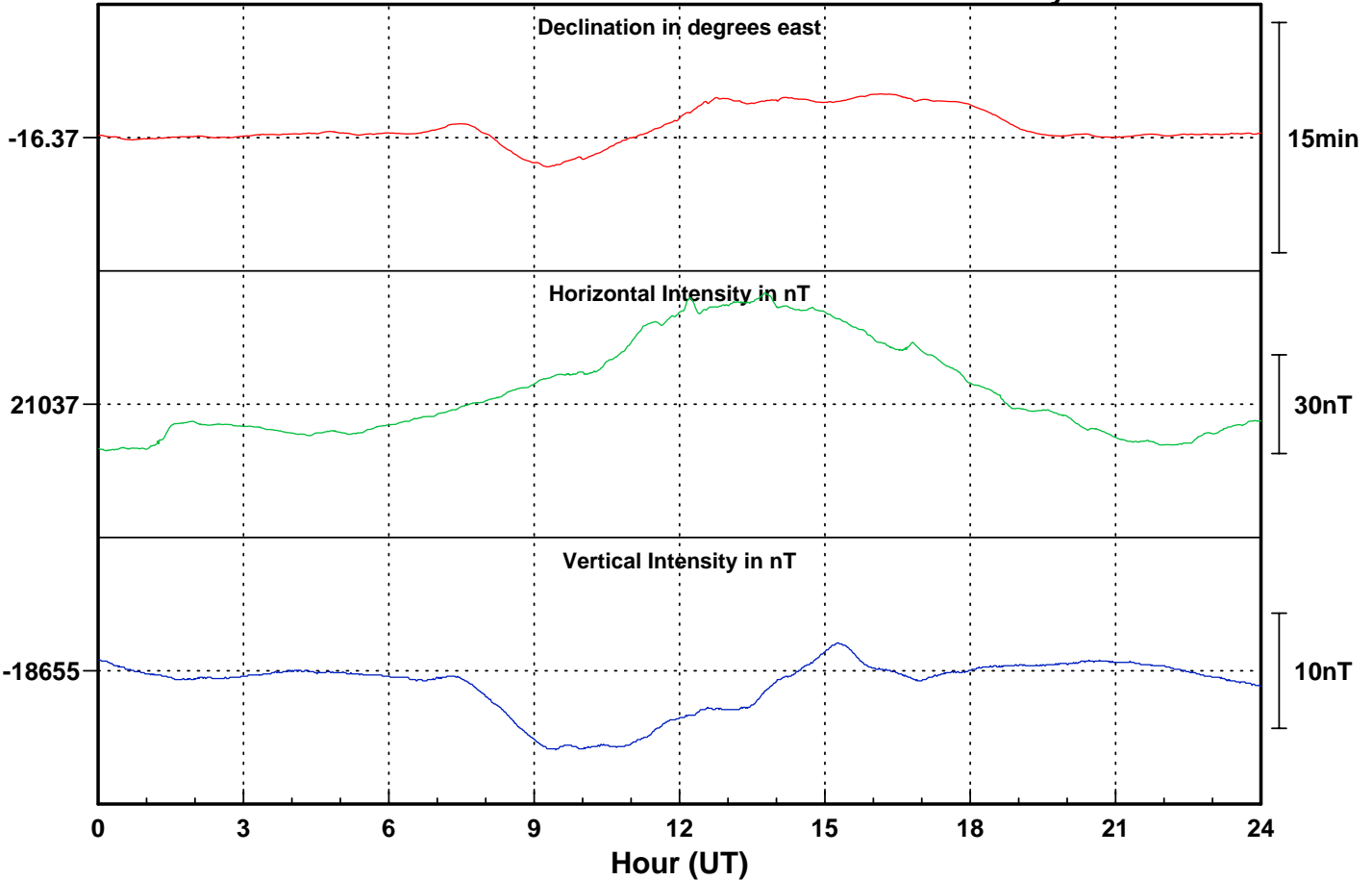
Ascension Island

Day number: 066



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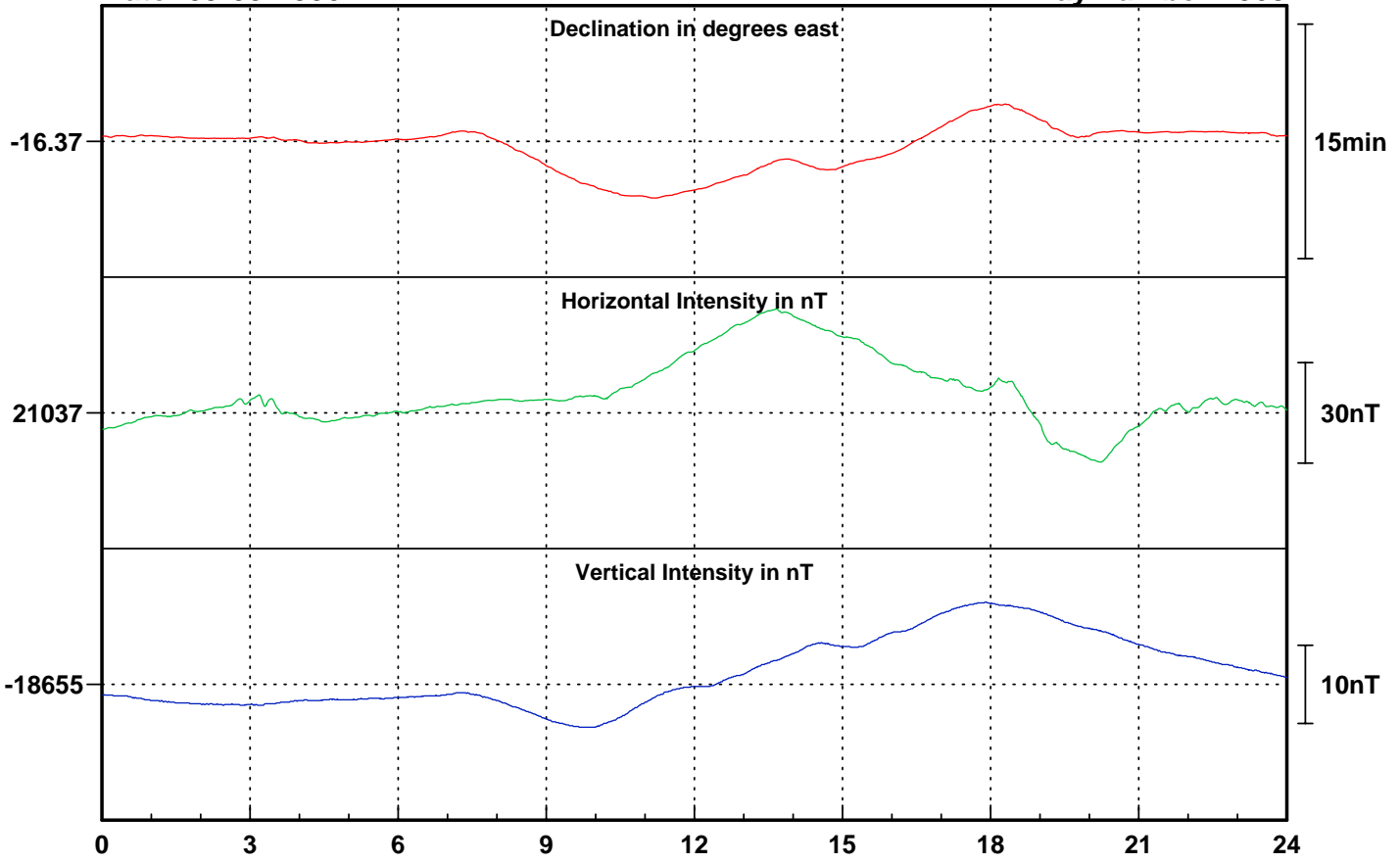
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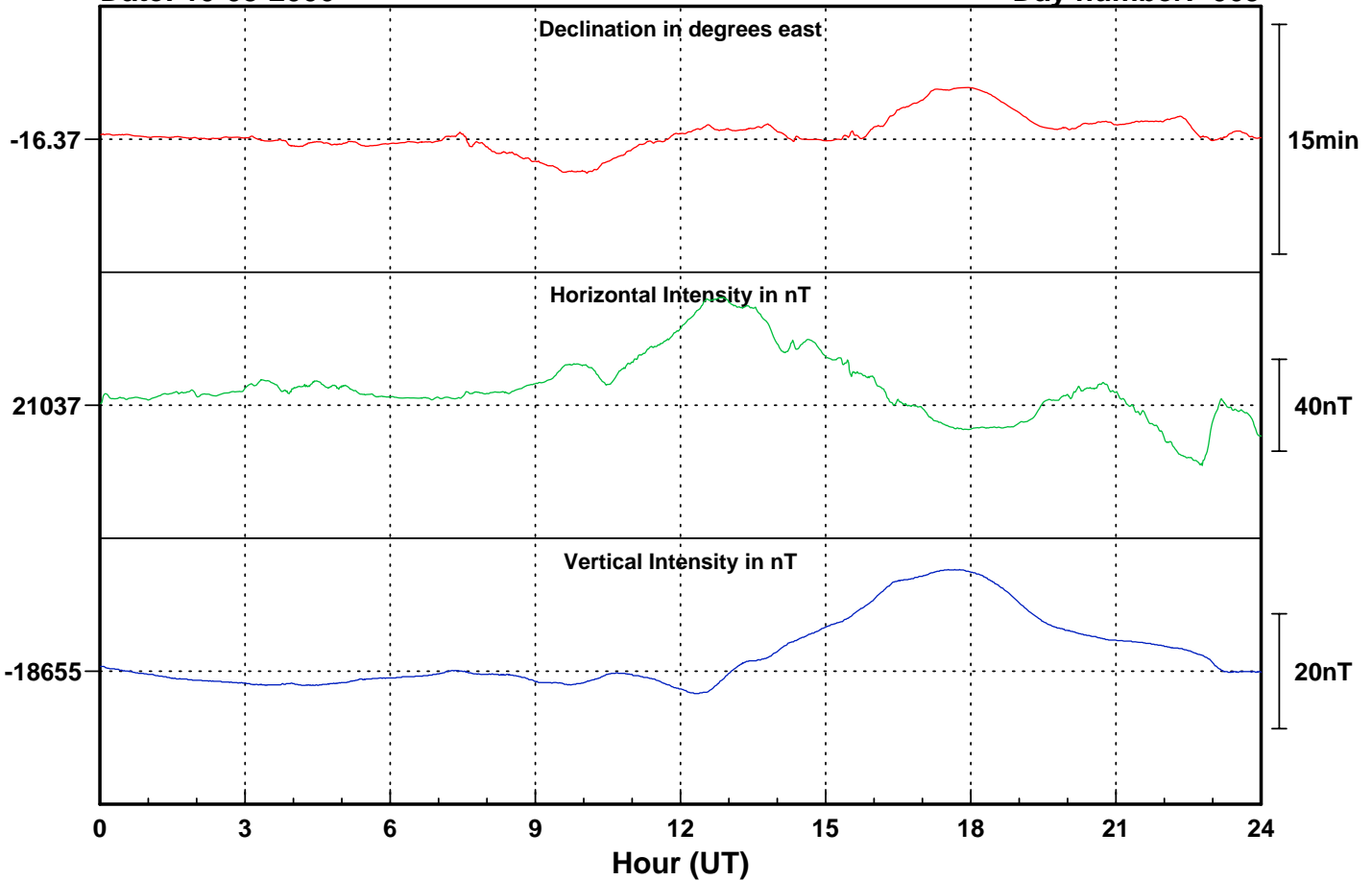
Ascension Island

Day number: 068



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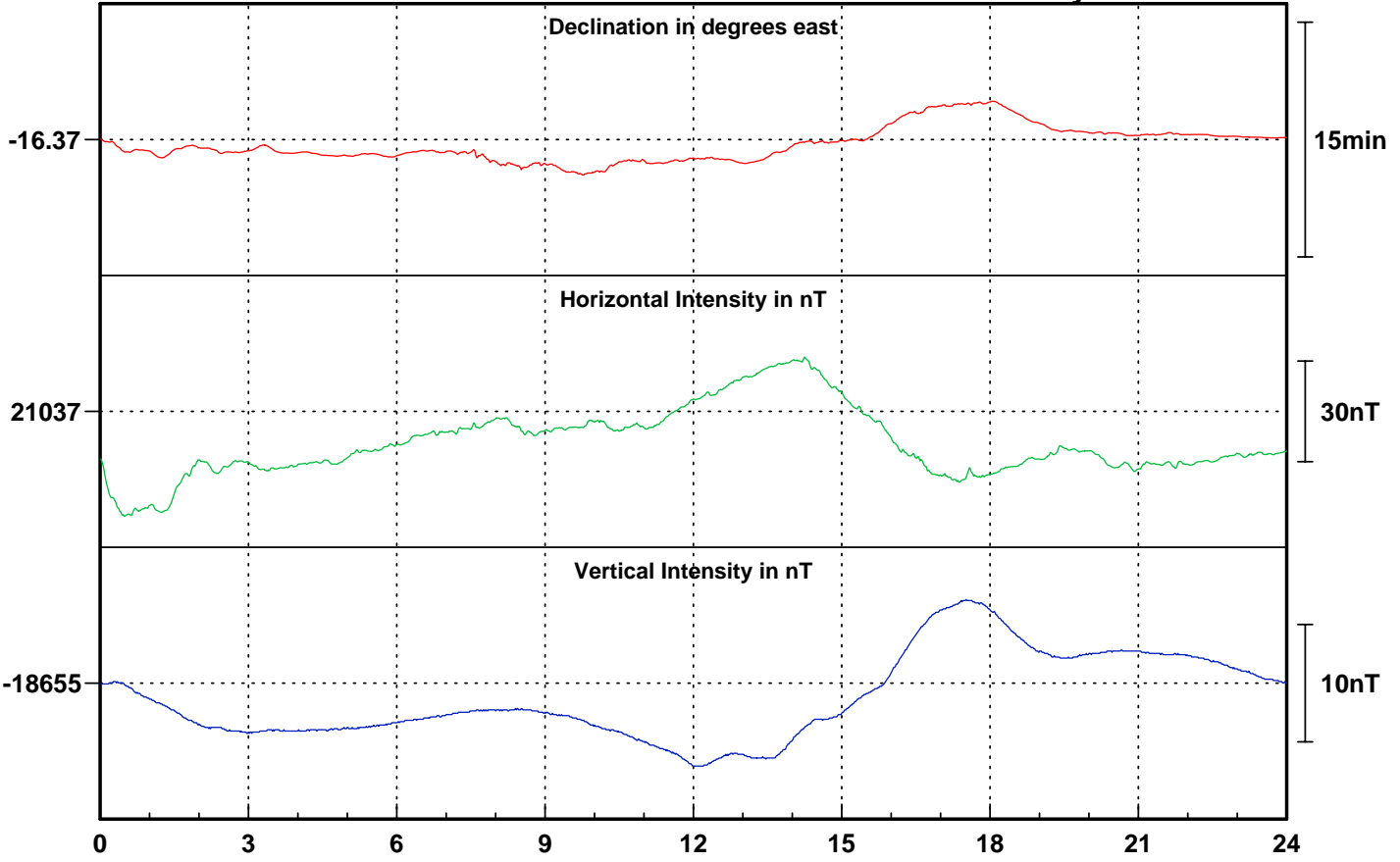
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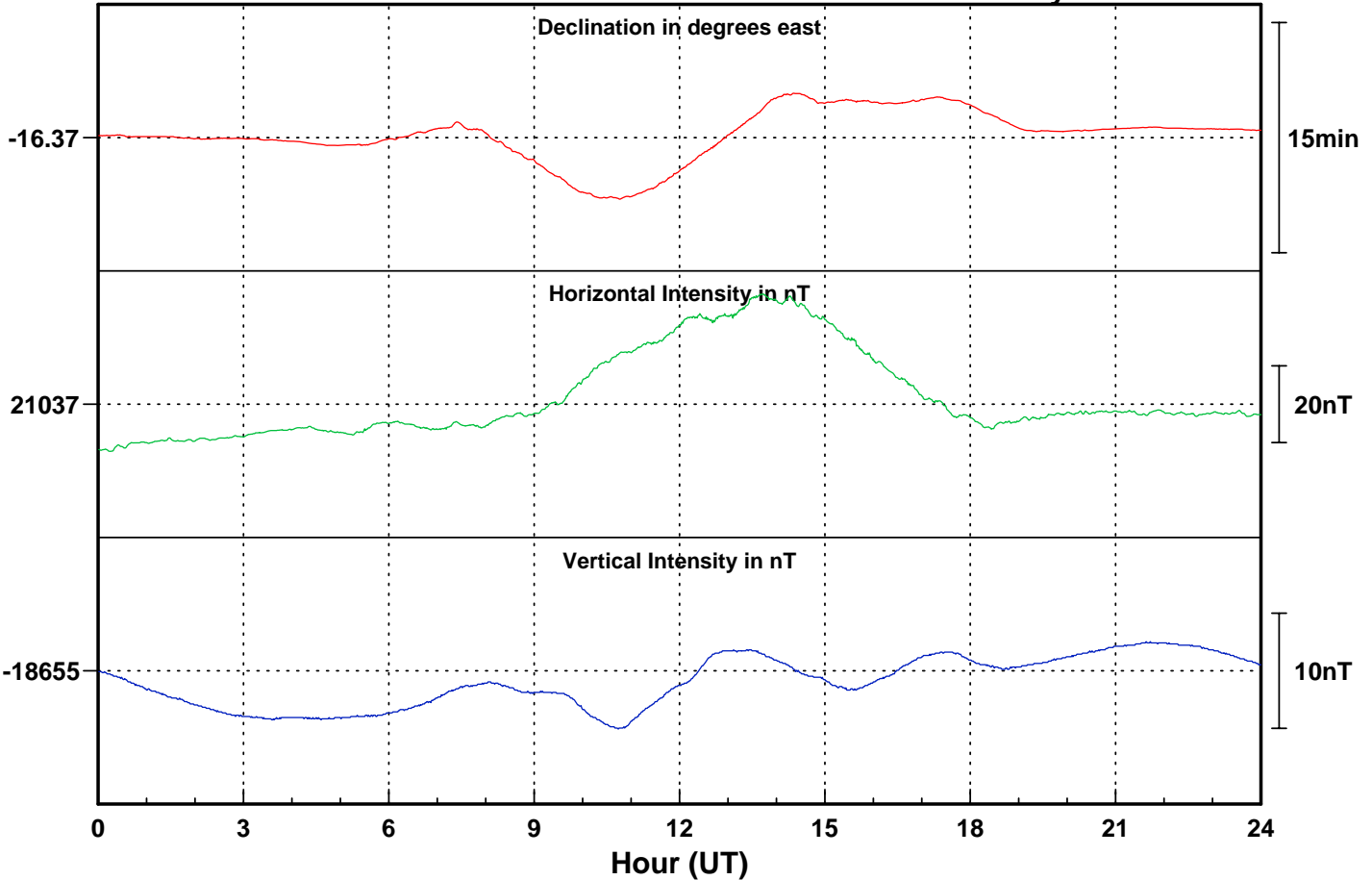
Ascension Island

Day number: 070



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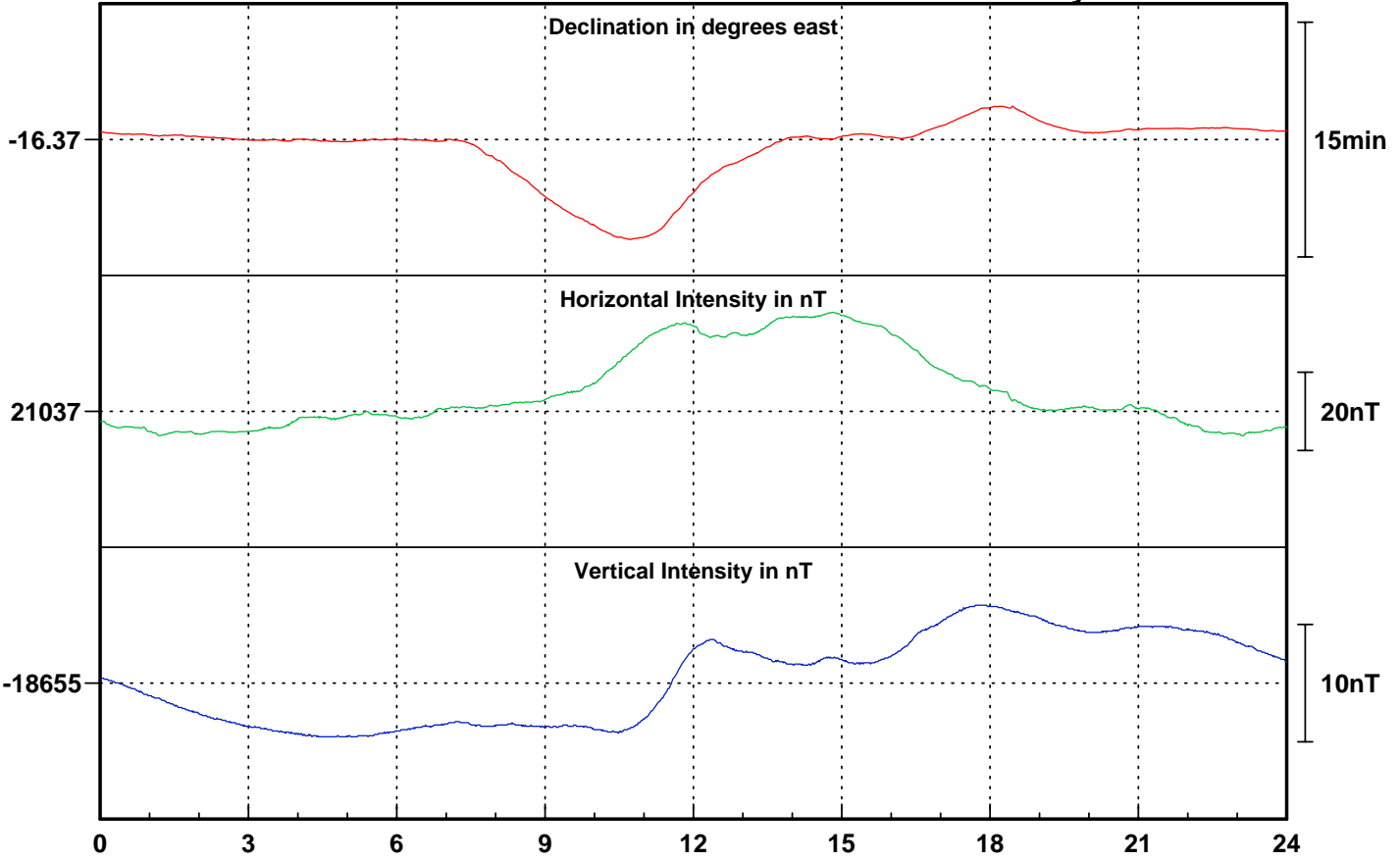
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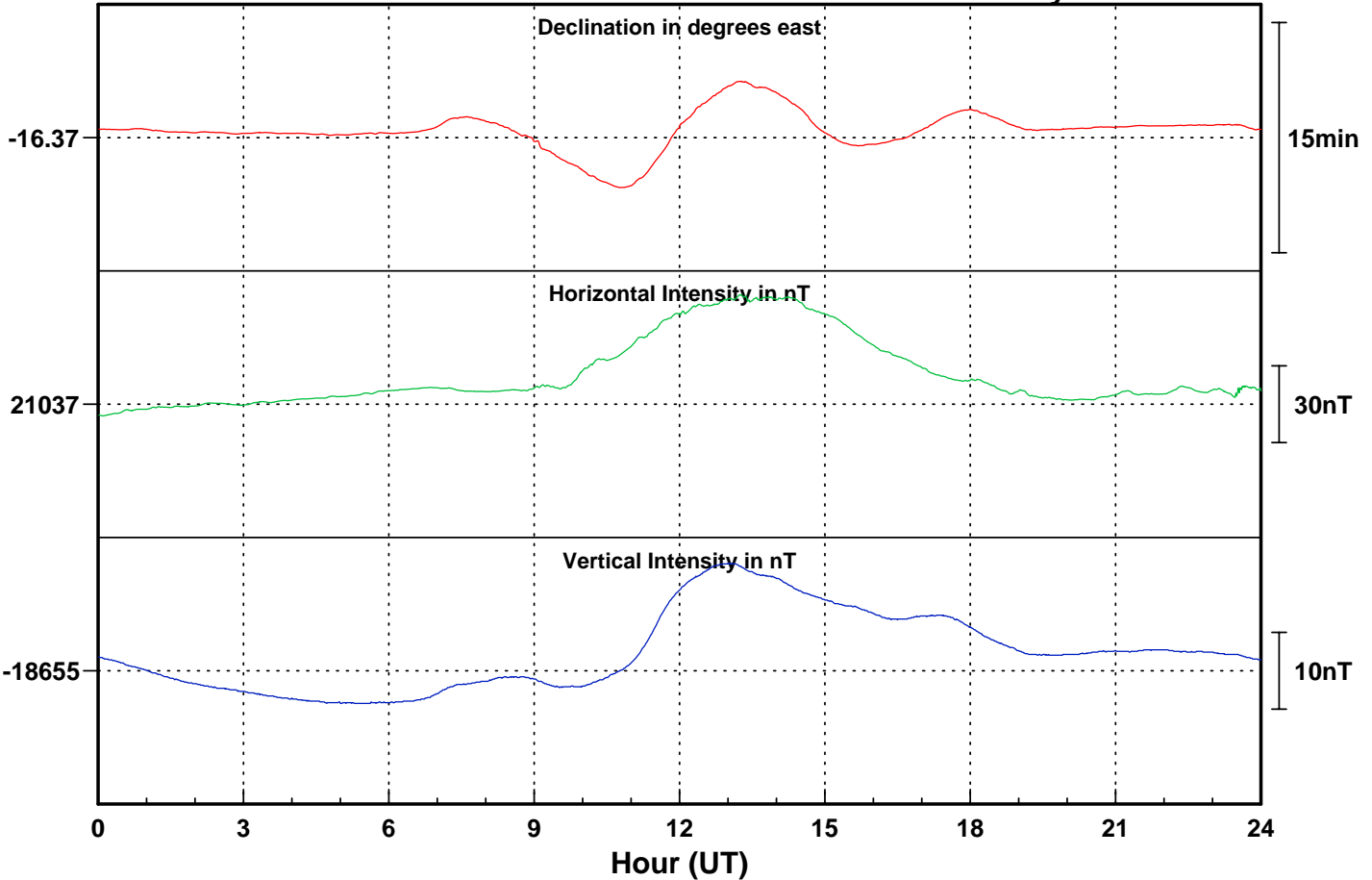
Ascension Island

Day number: 072



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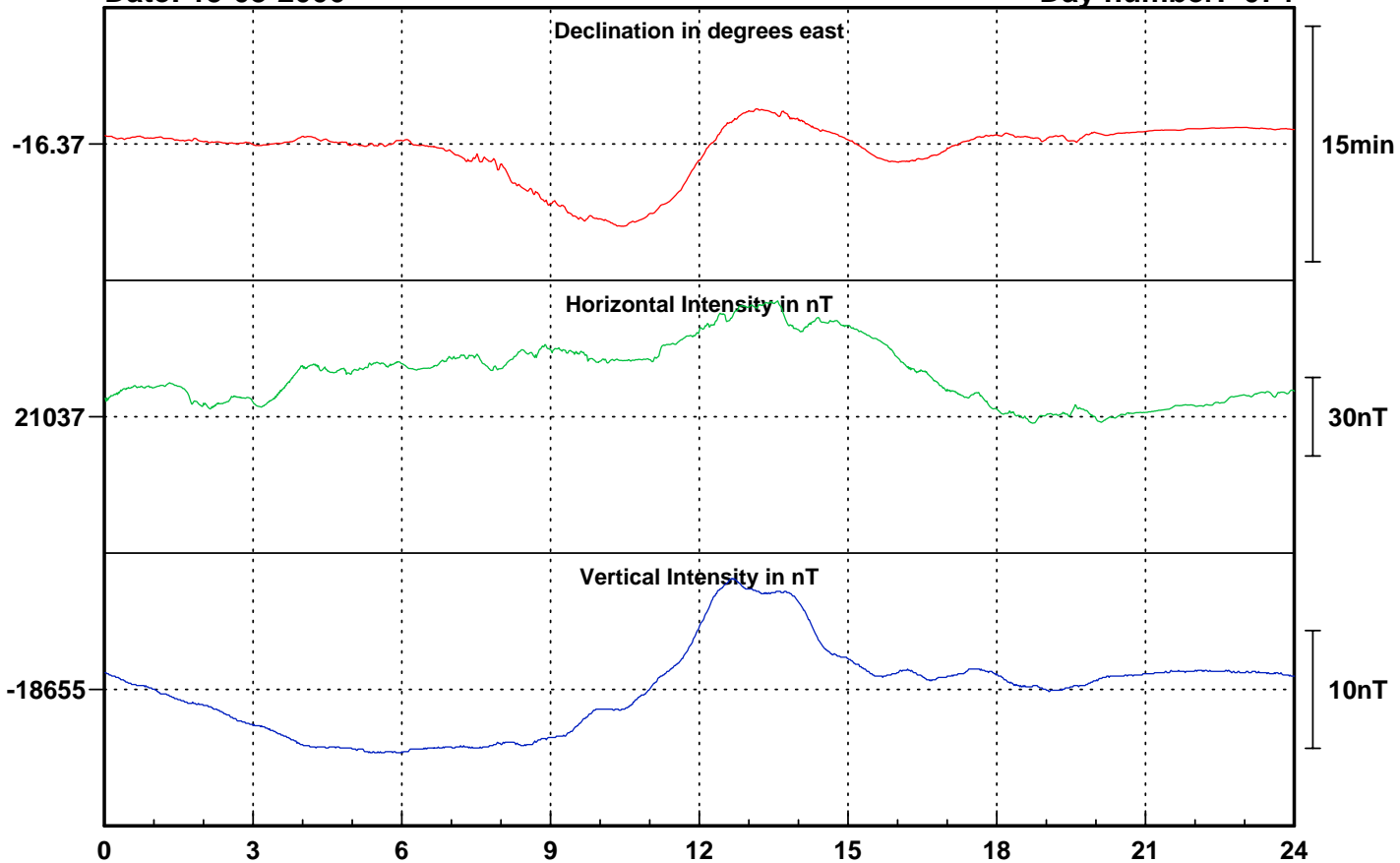
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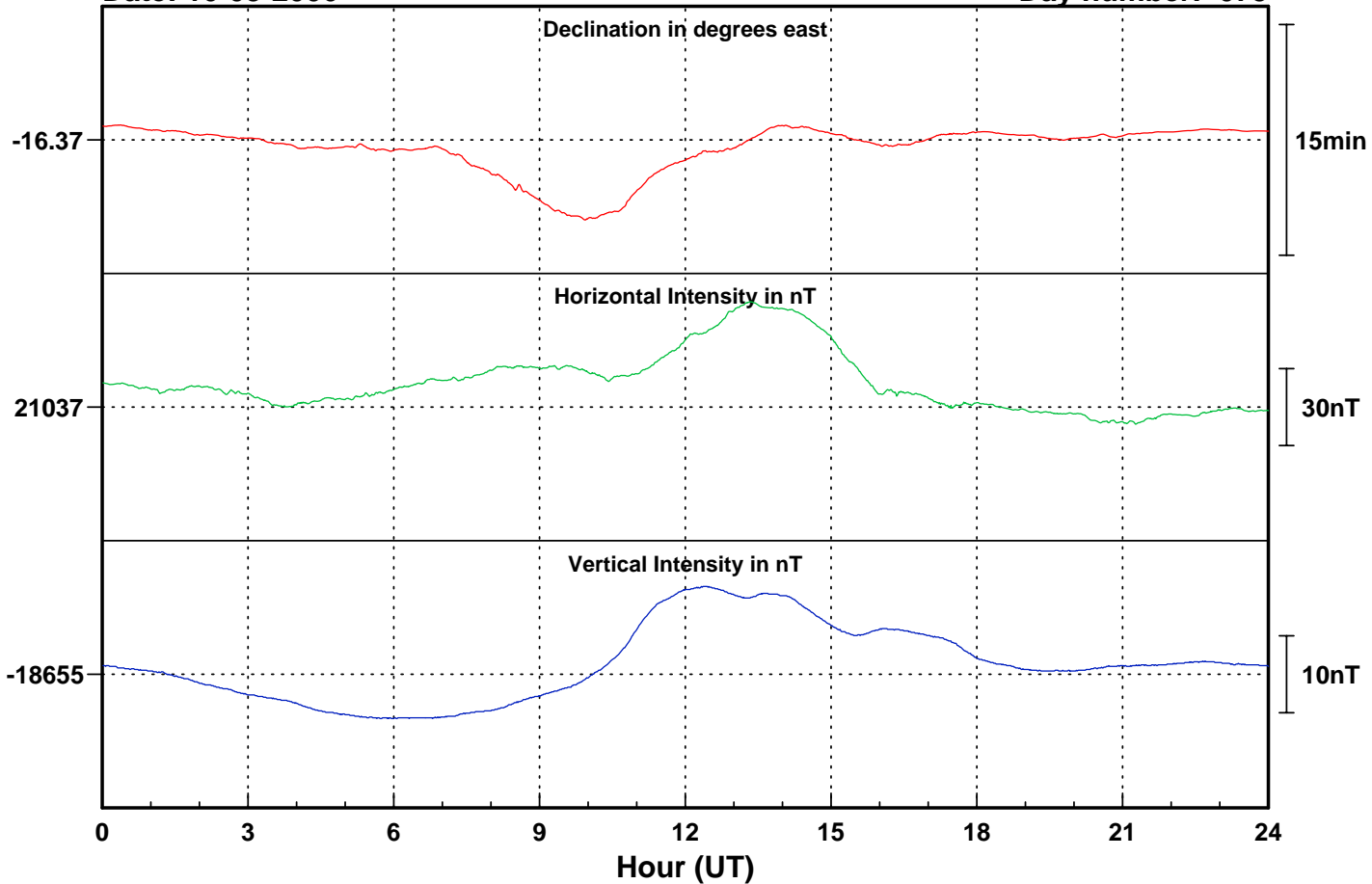
Ascension Island

Day number: 074



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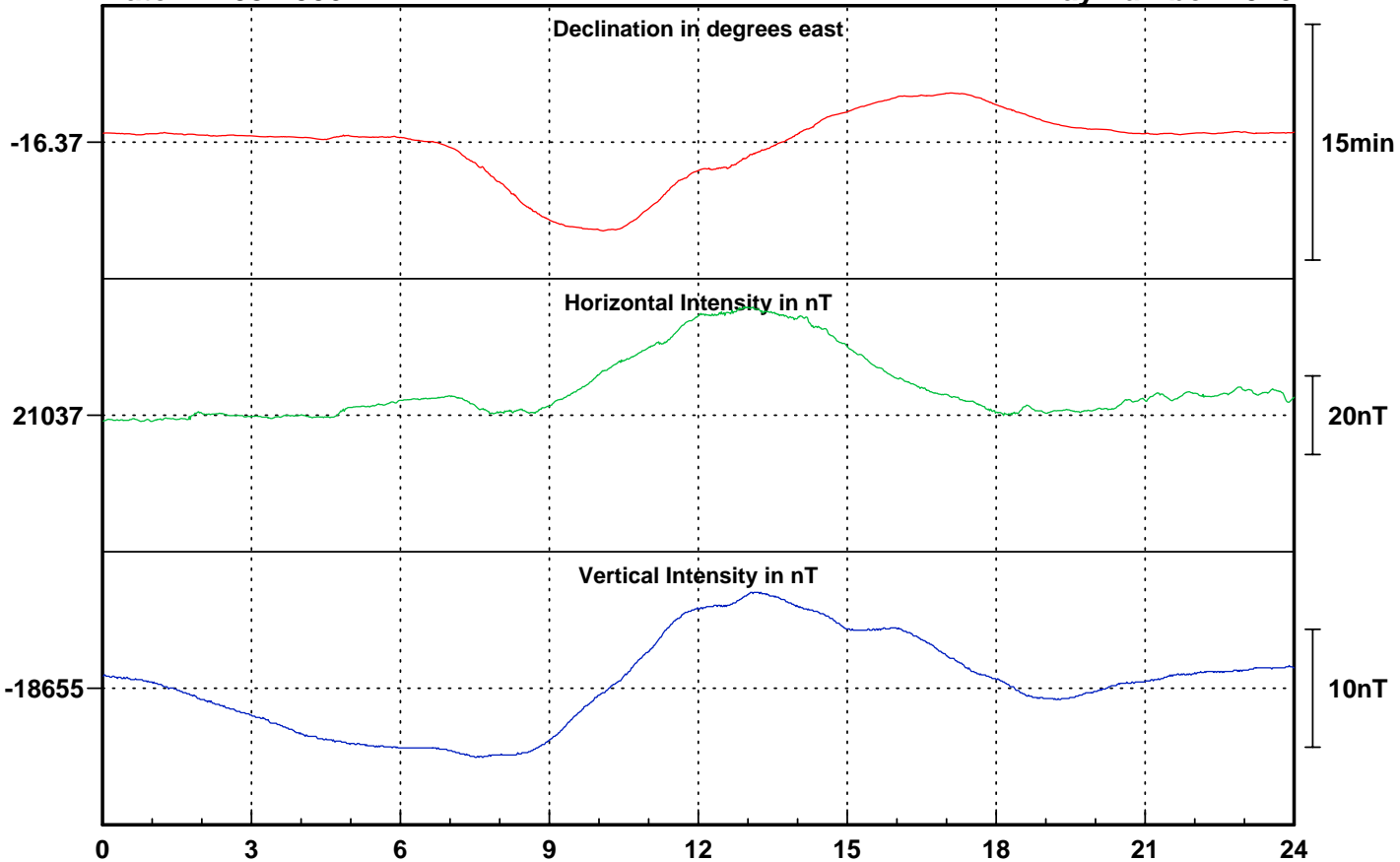
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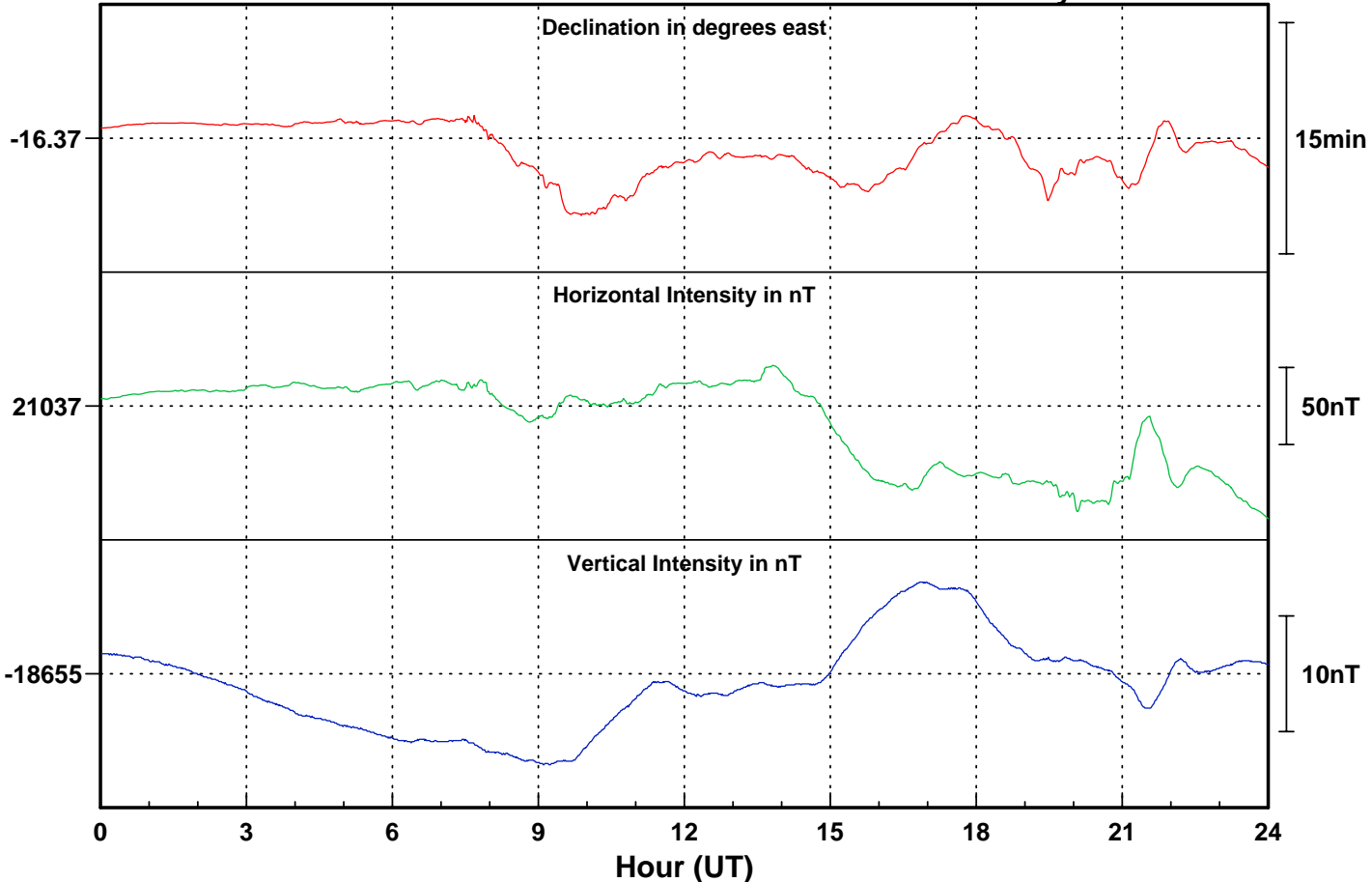
Ascension Island

Day number: 076



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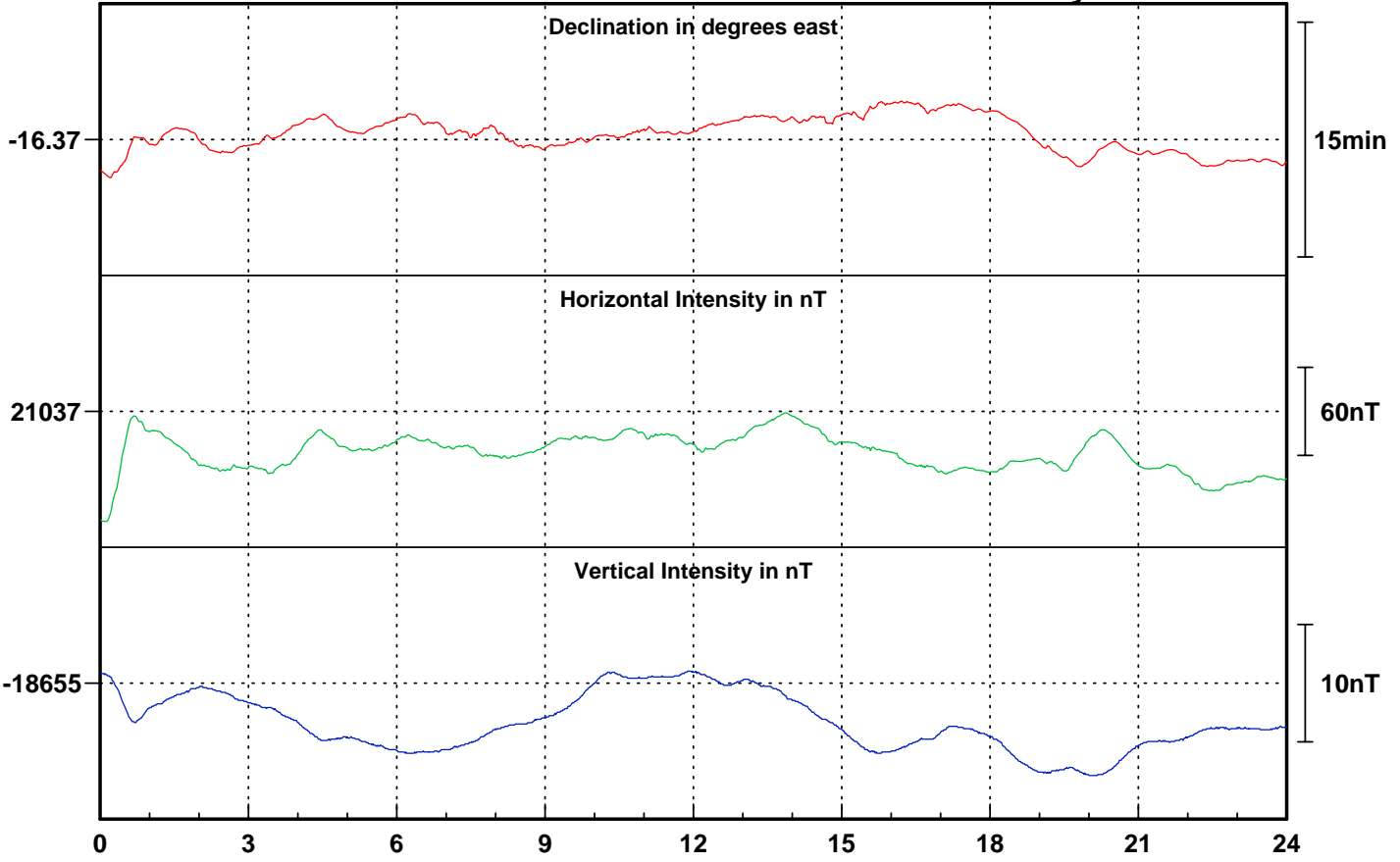
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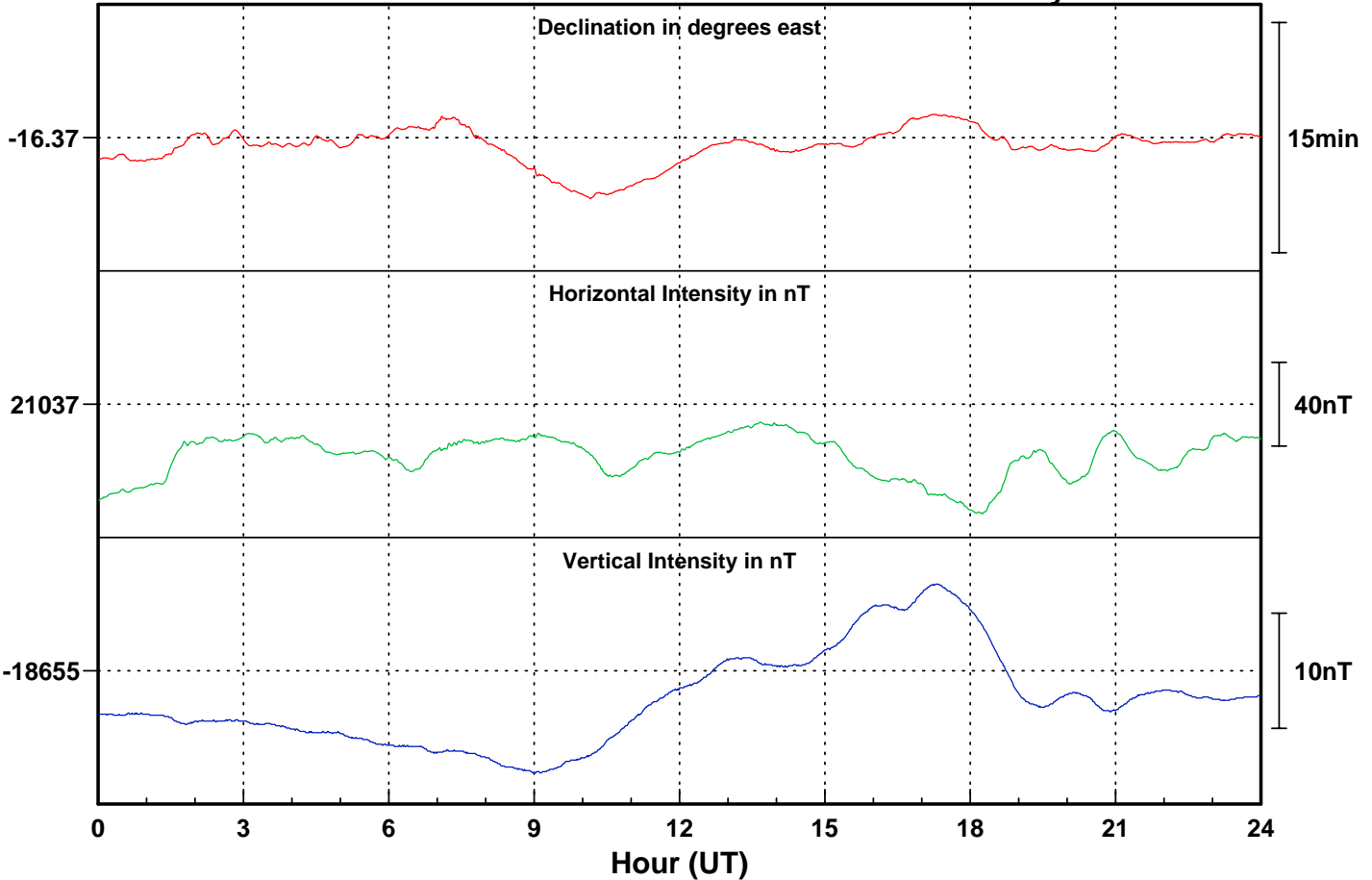
Ascension Island

Day number: 078



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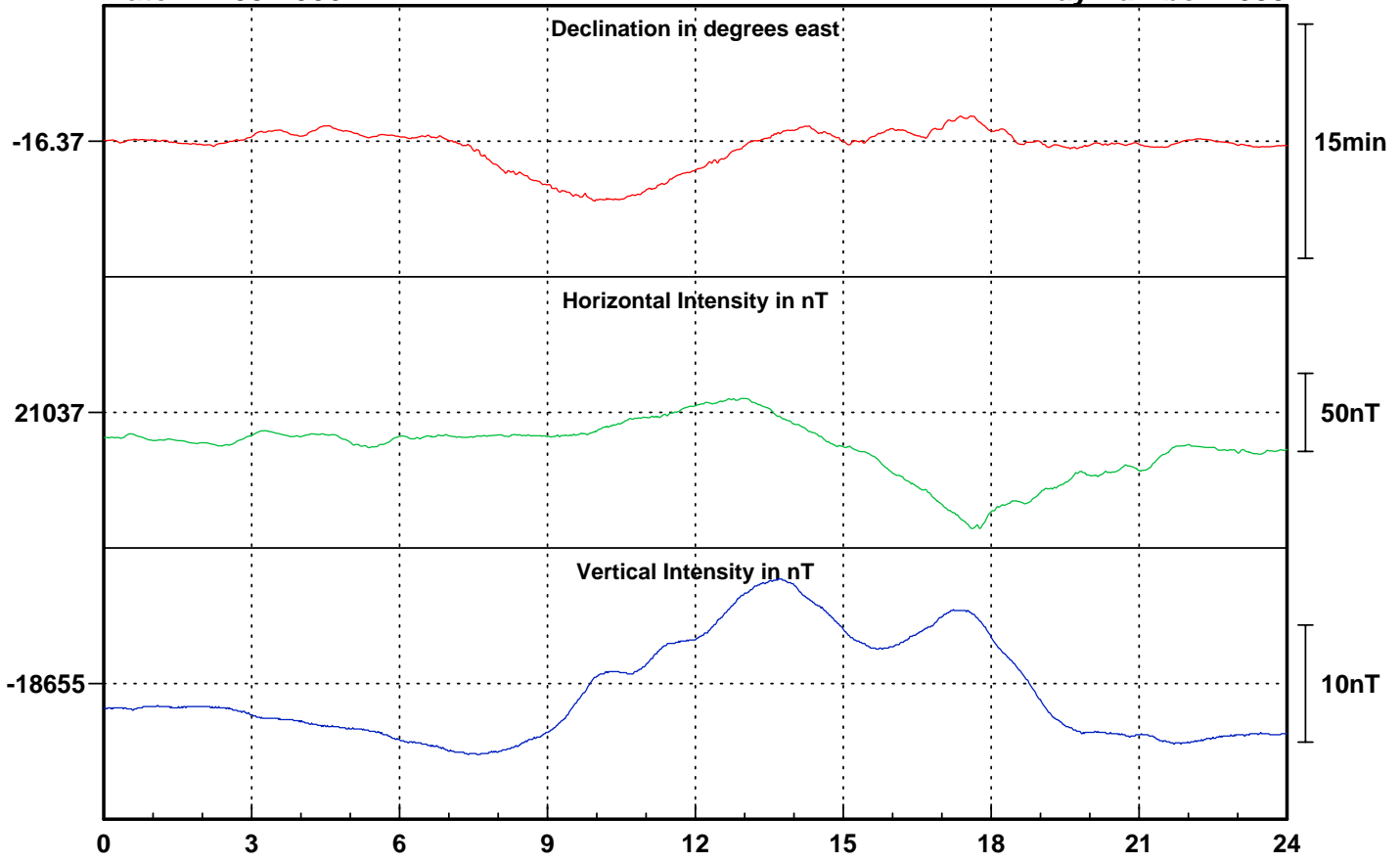
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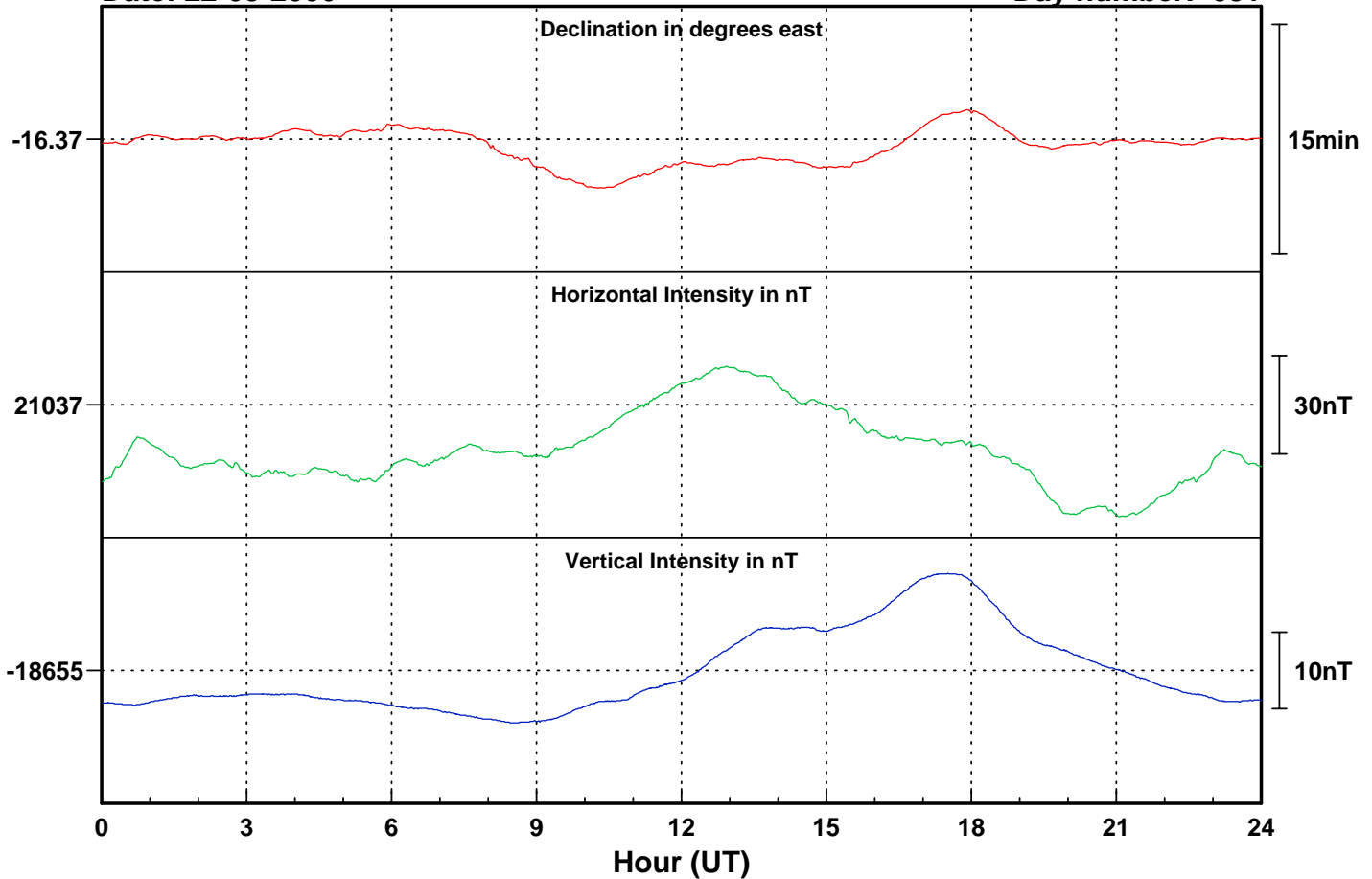
Ascension Island

Day number: 080



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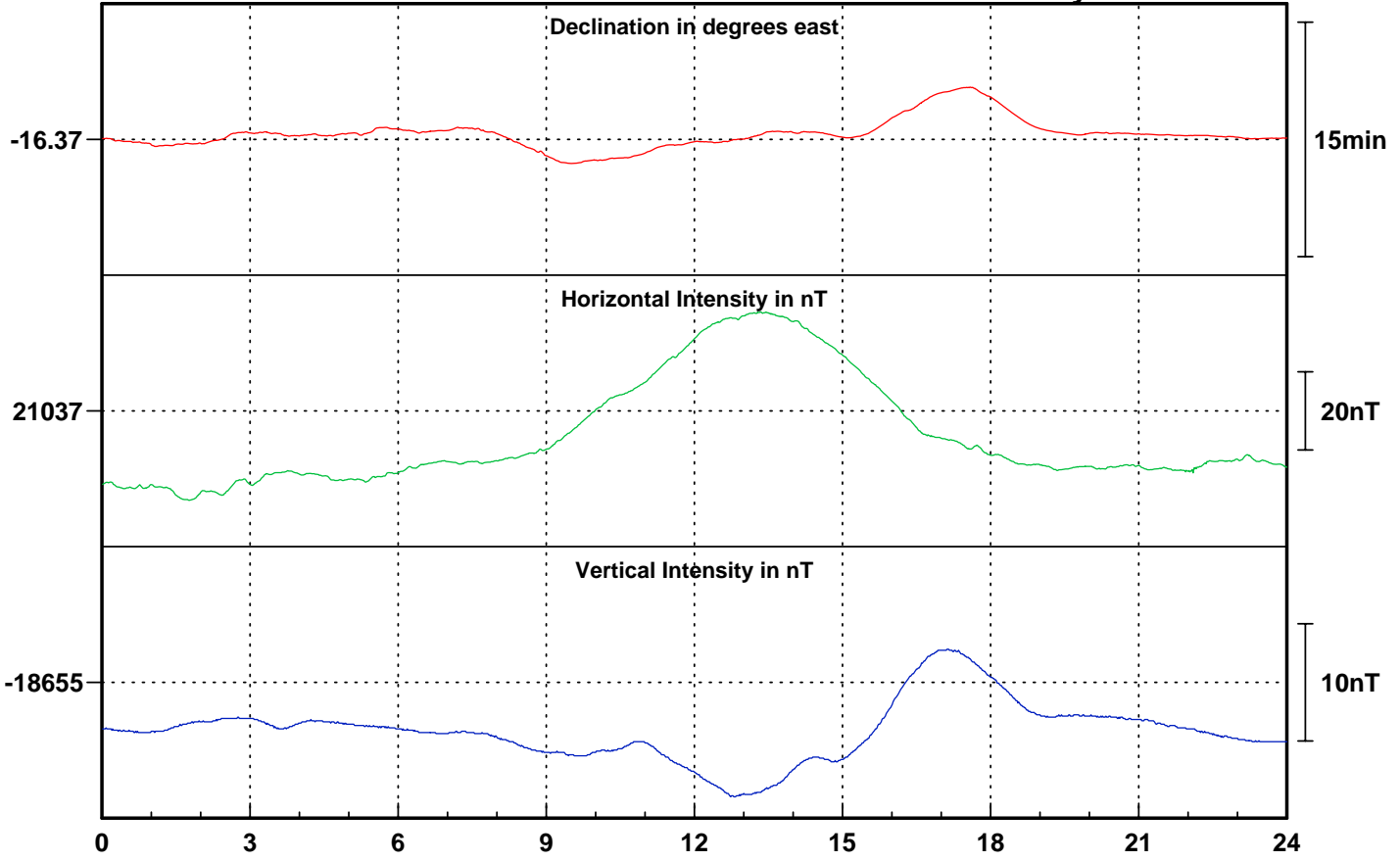
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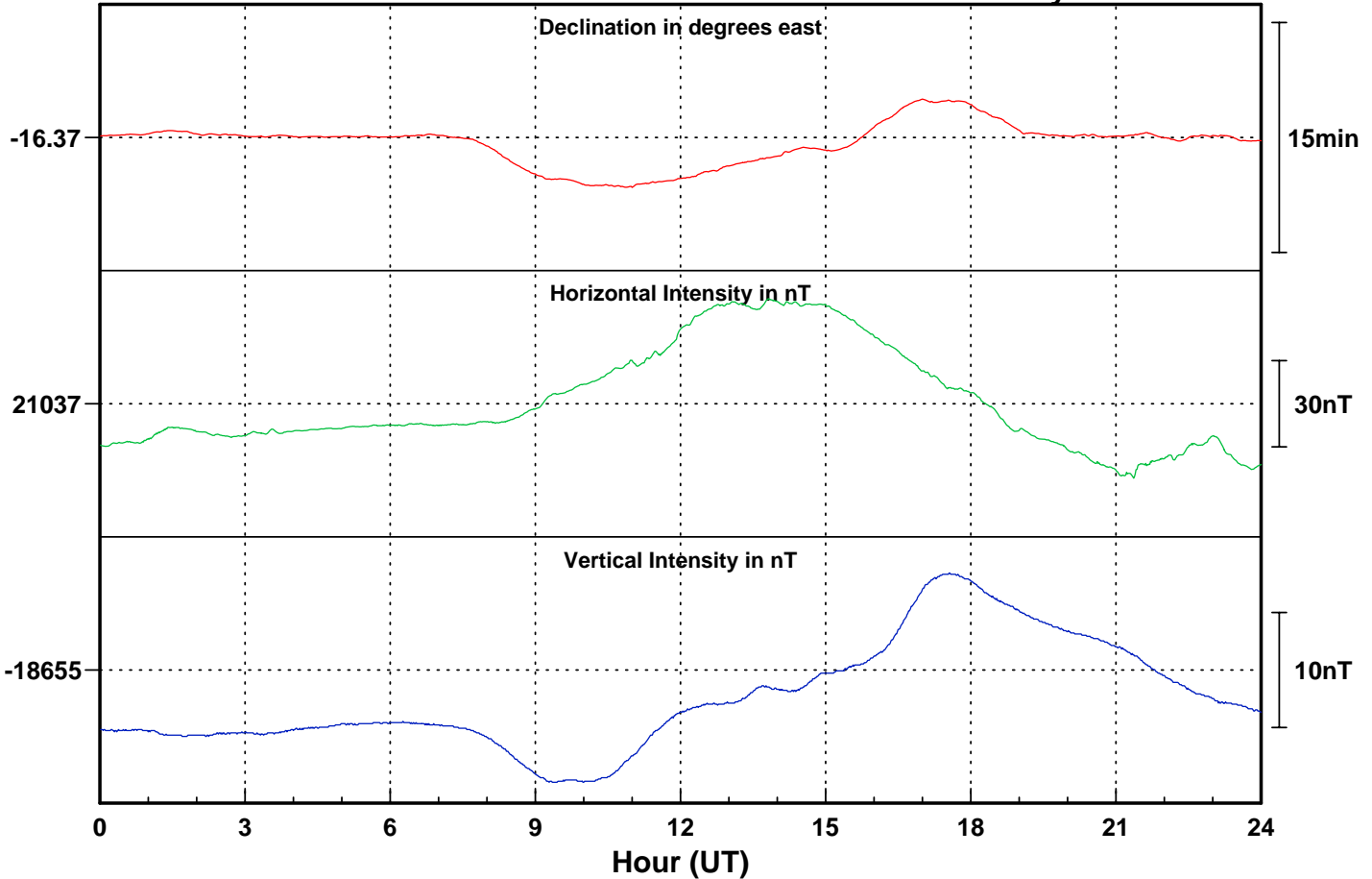
Ascension Island

Day number: 082



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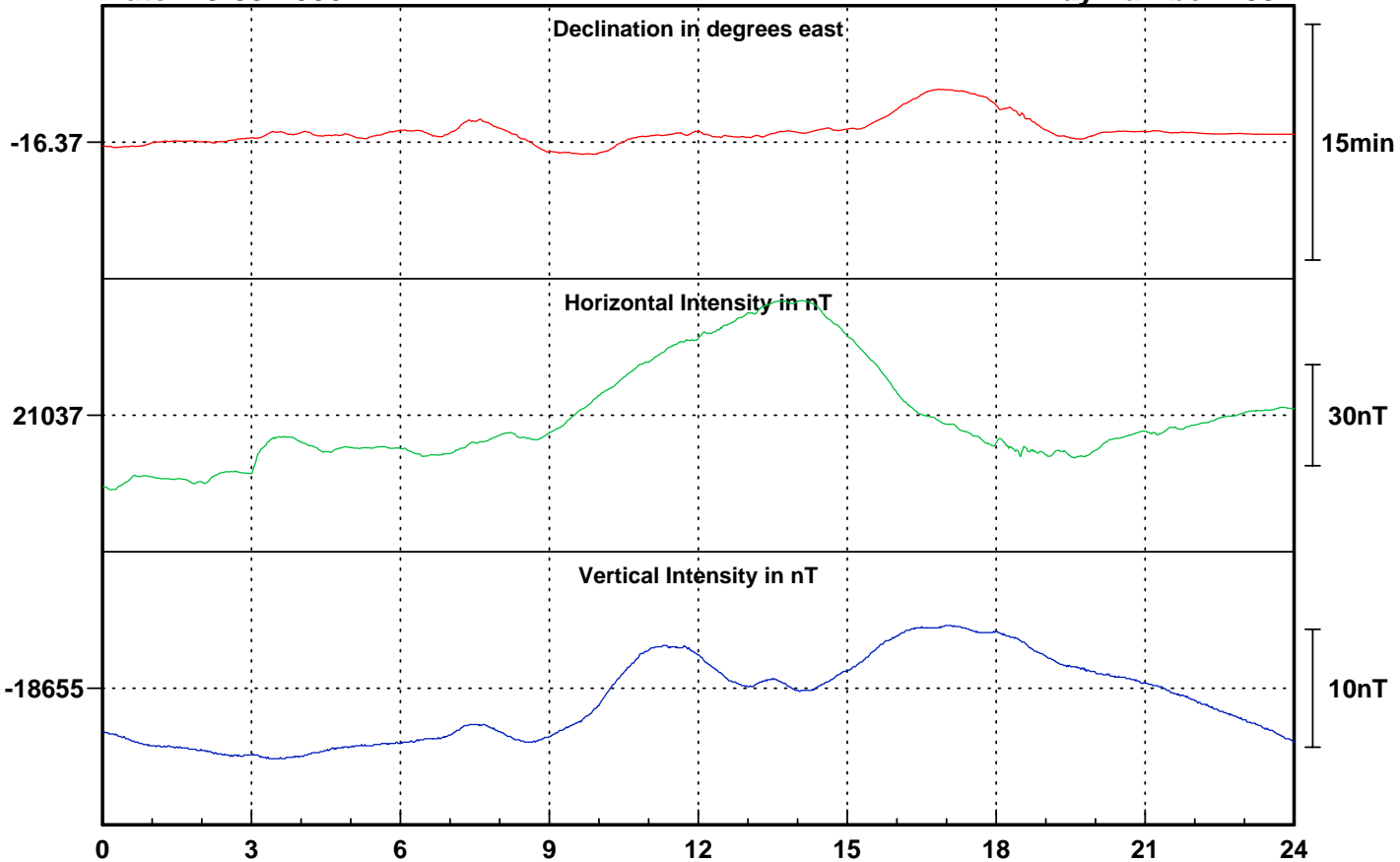
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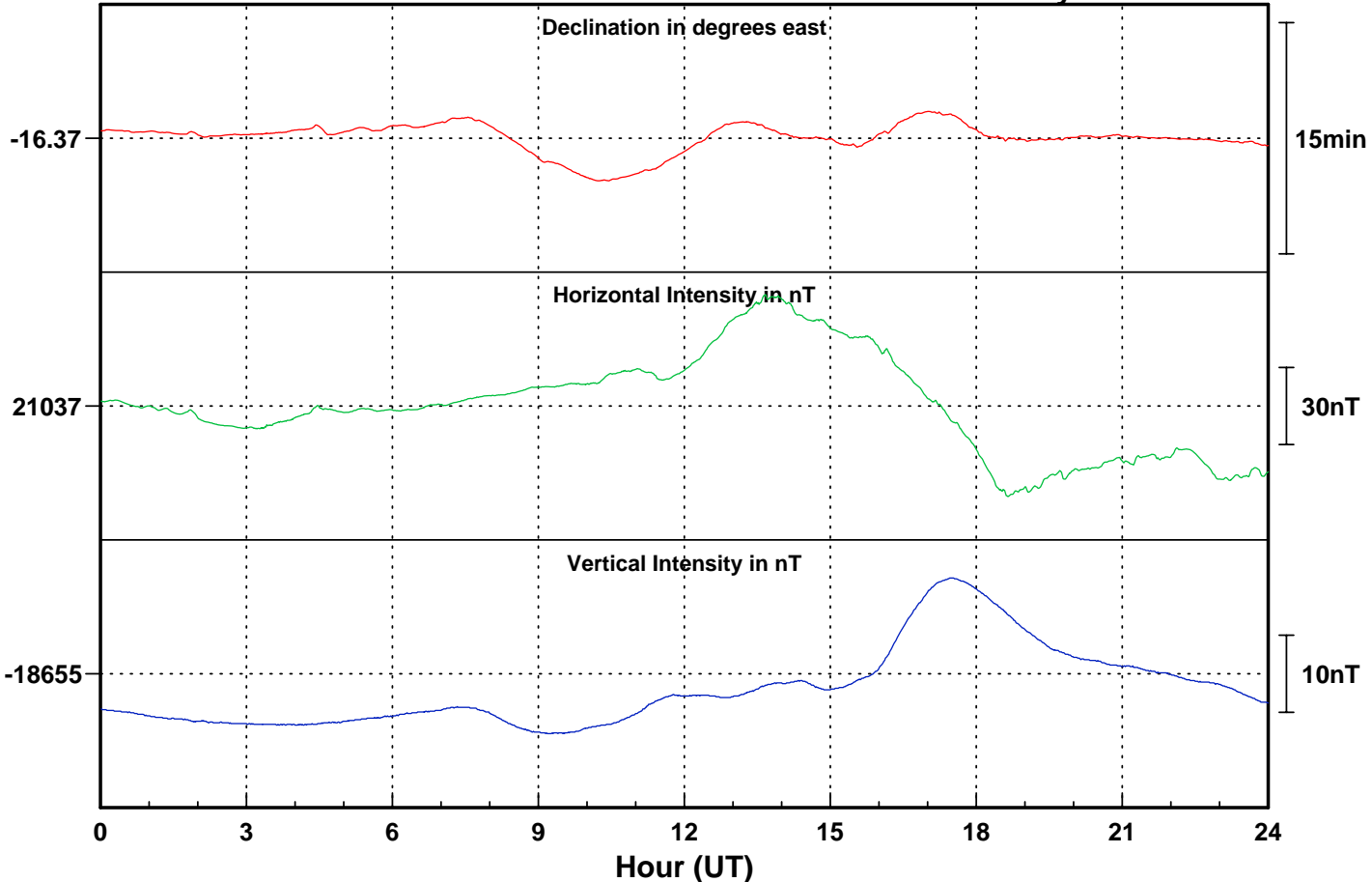
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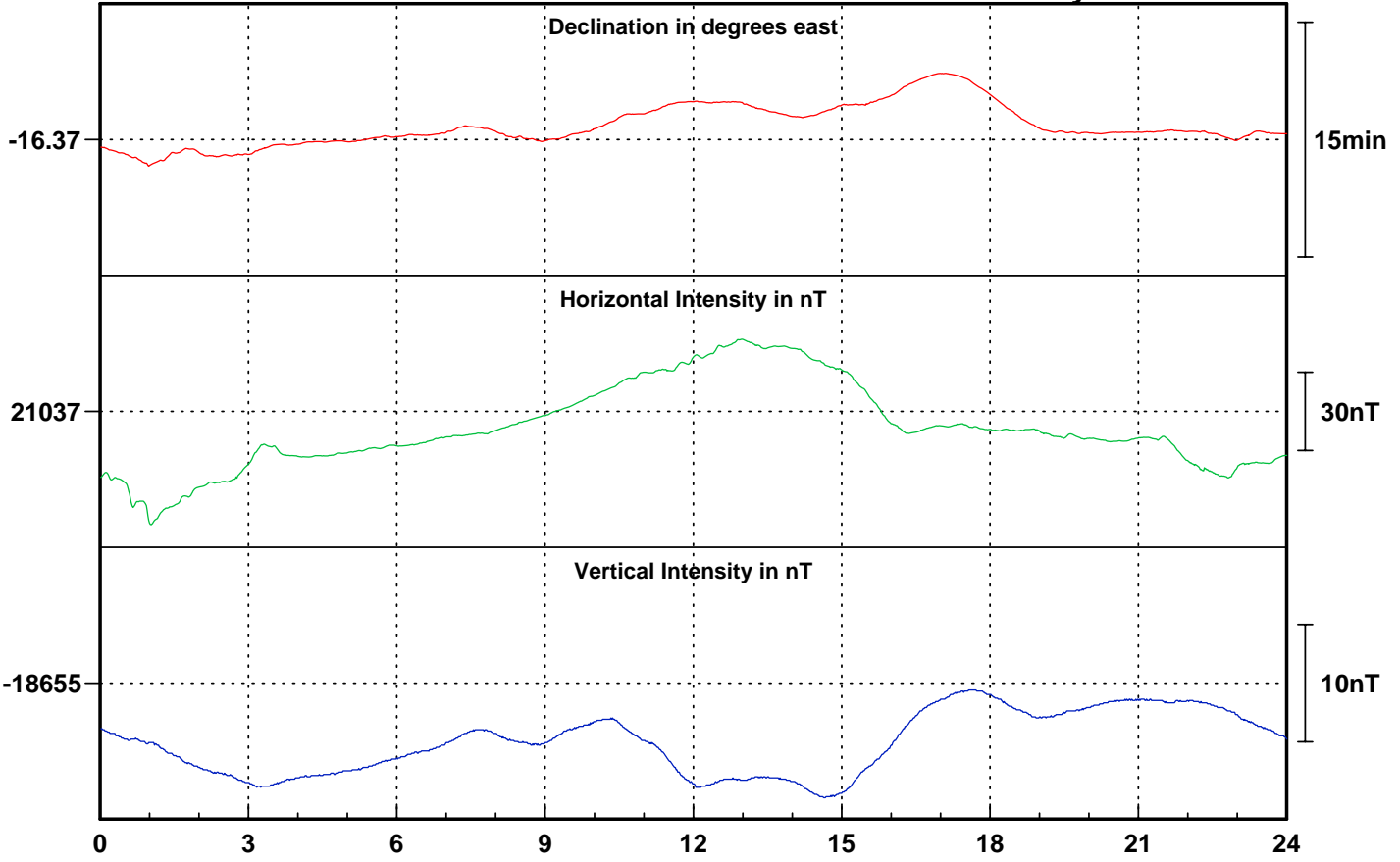
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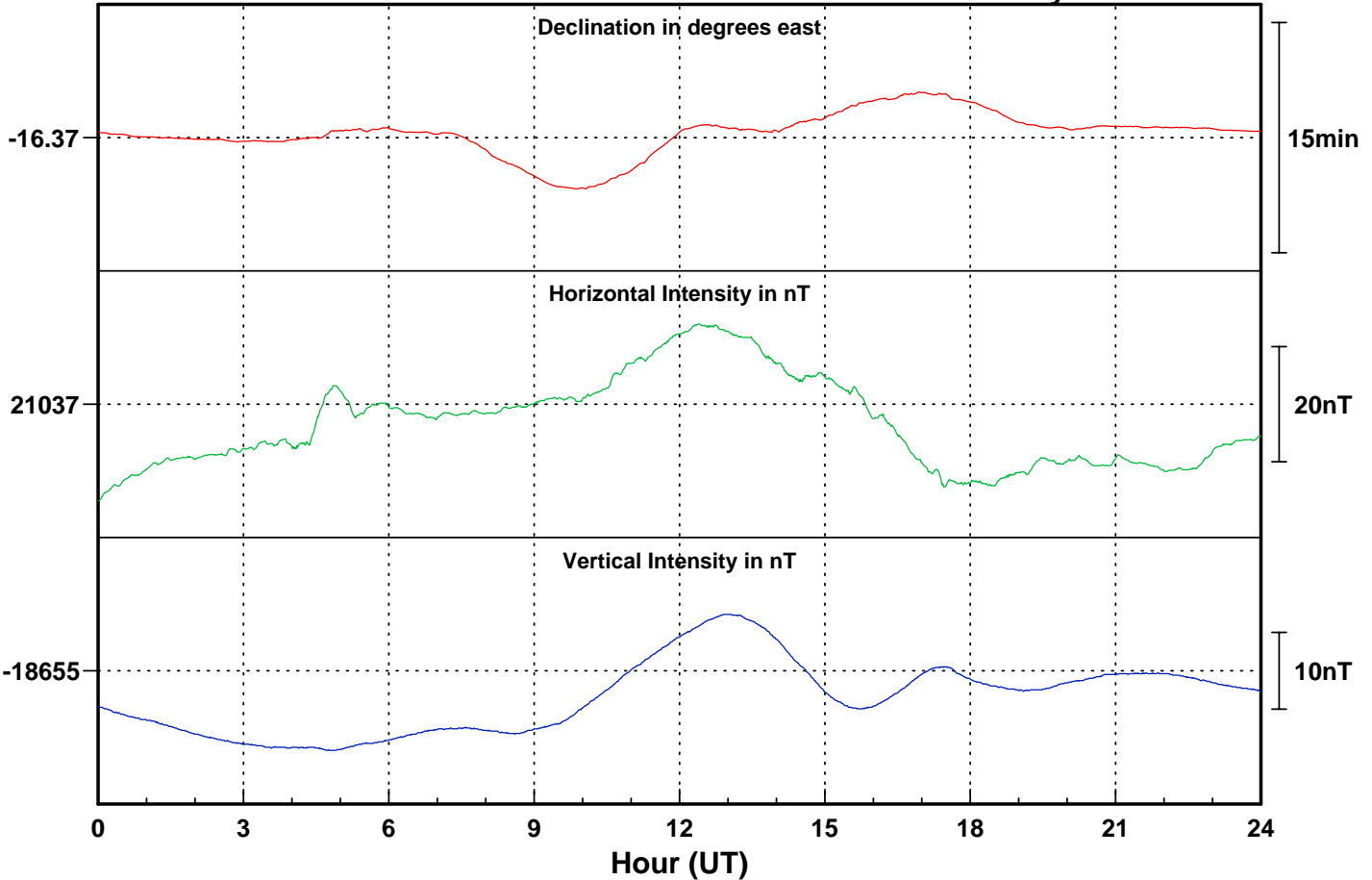
Ascension Island

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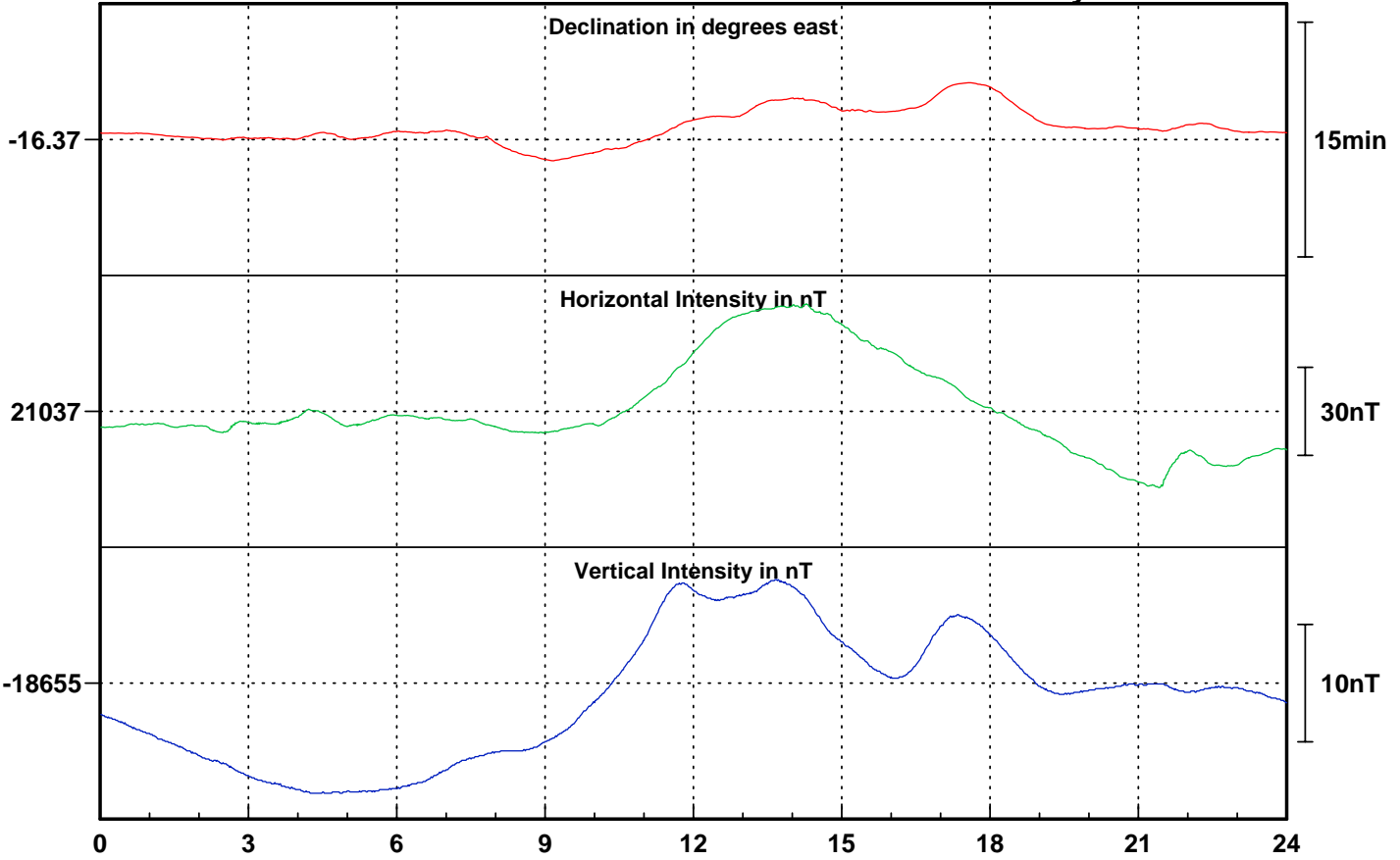
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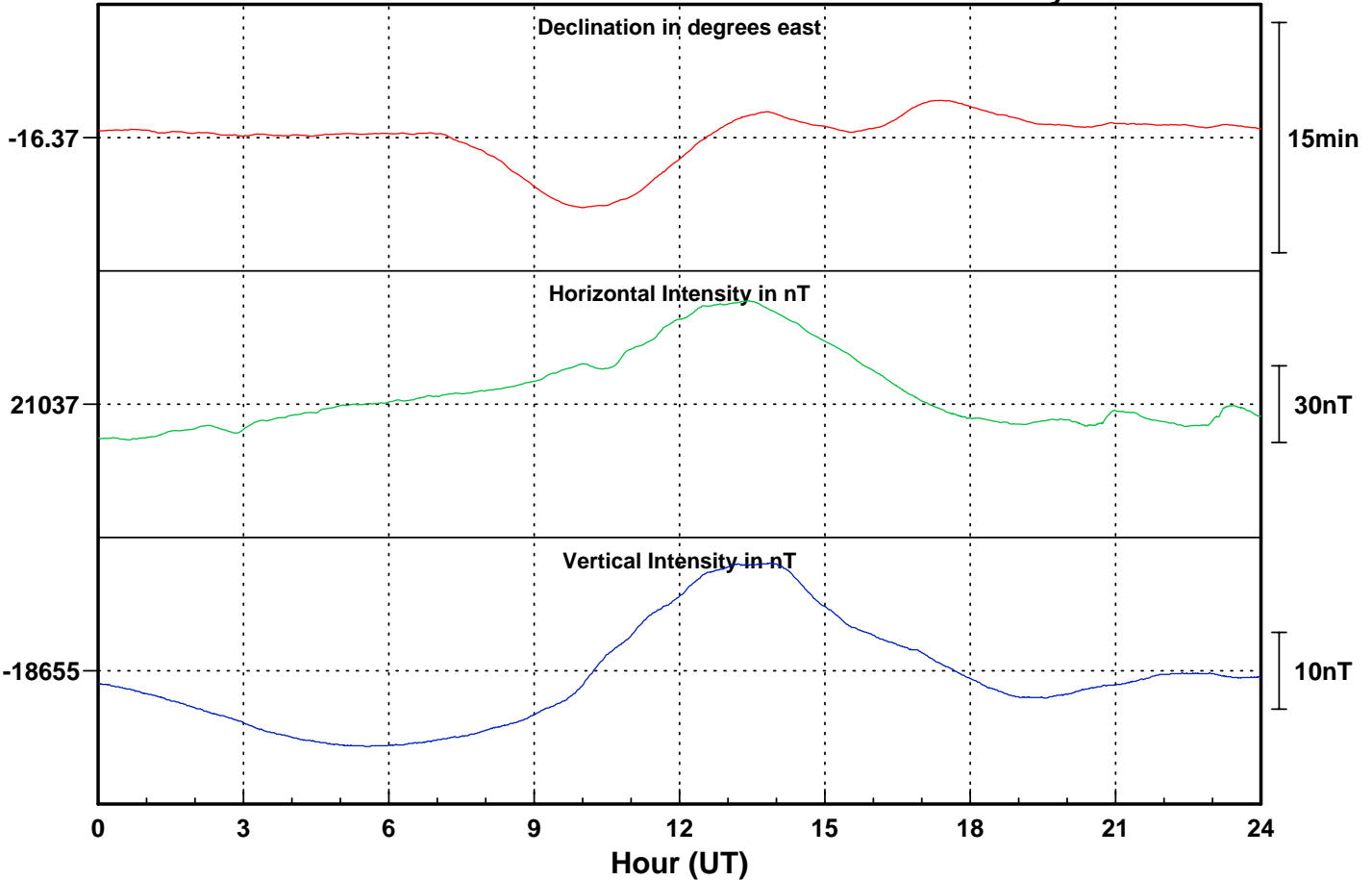
Ascension Island

Day number: 088



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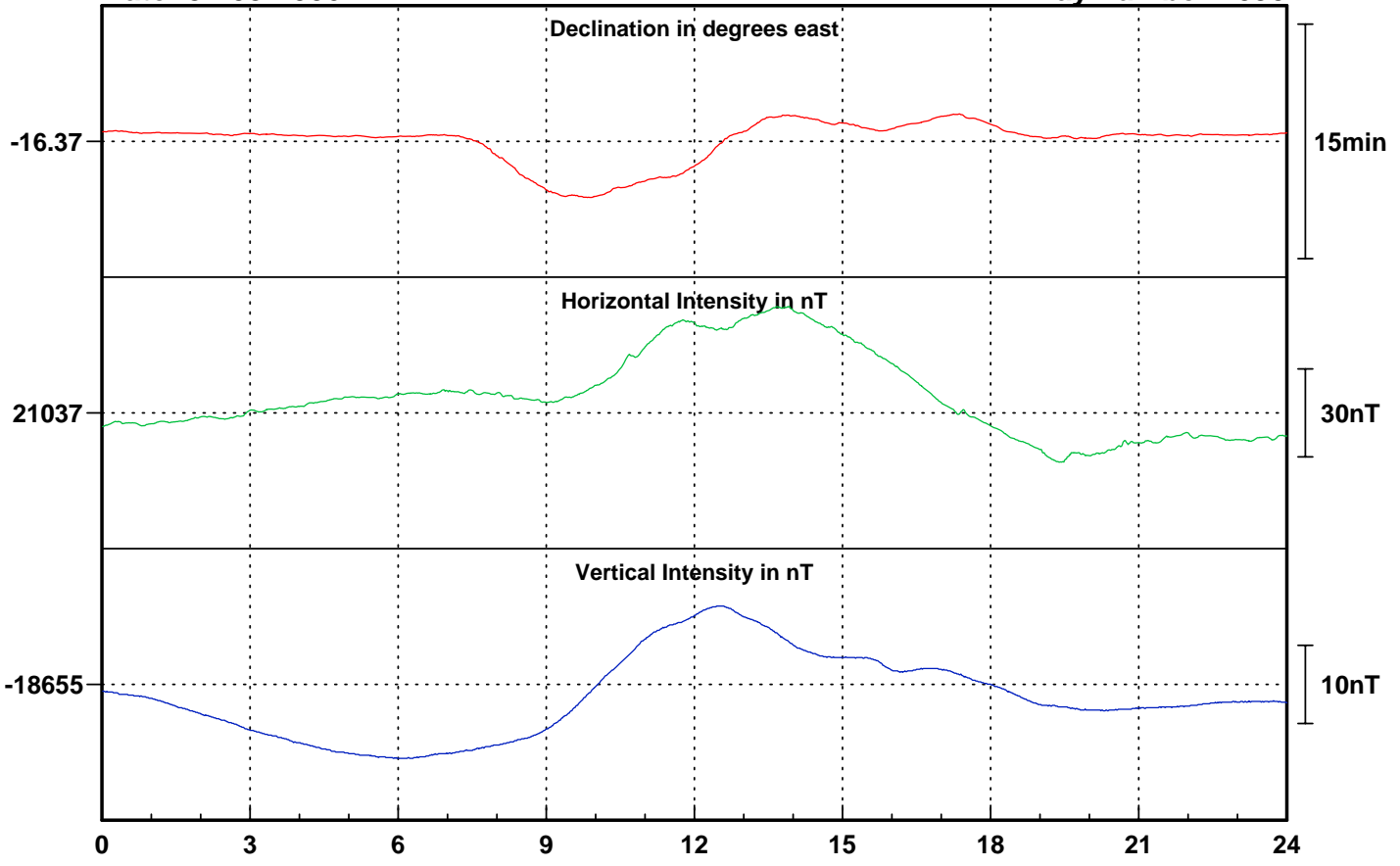
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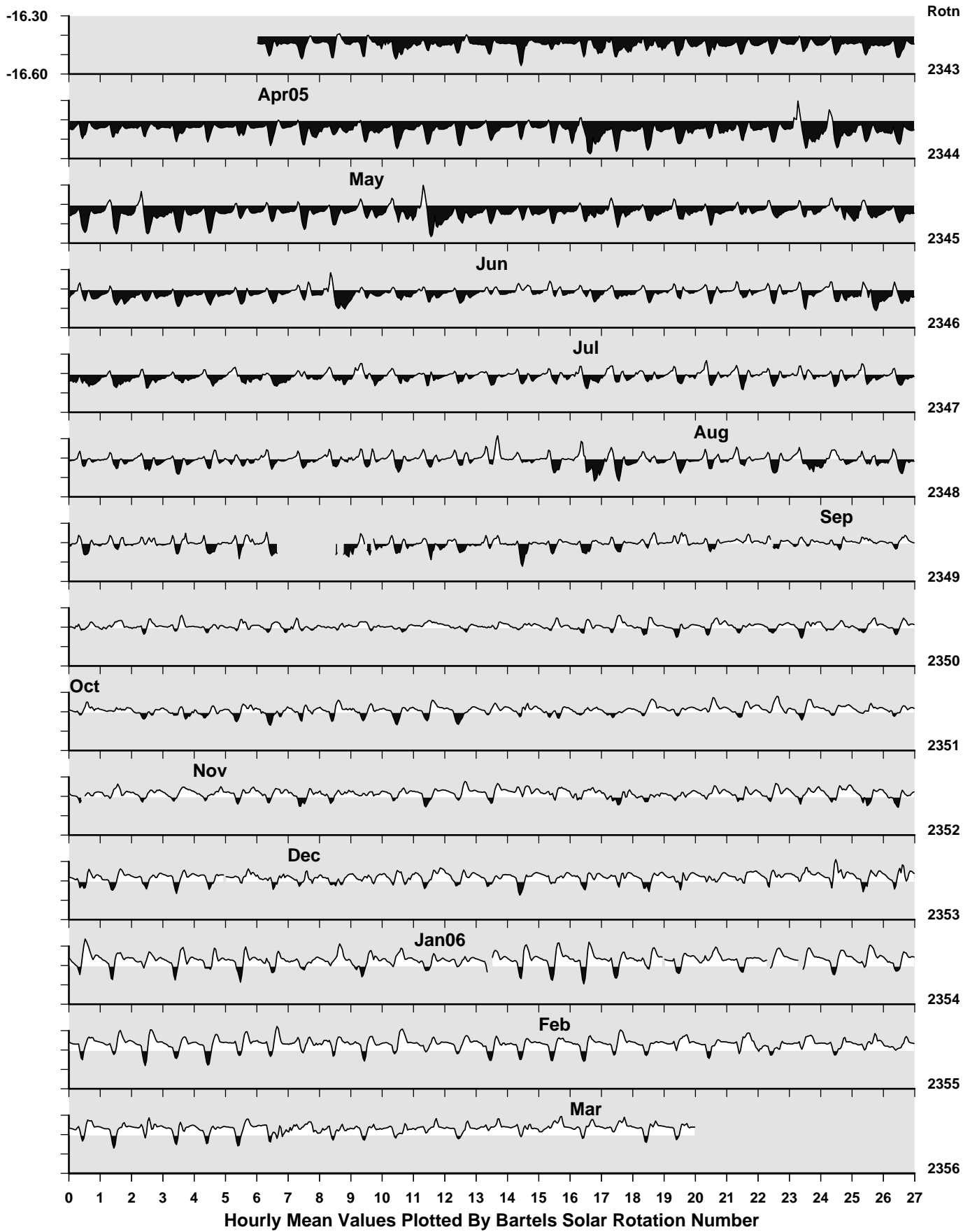
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Ascension Island

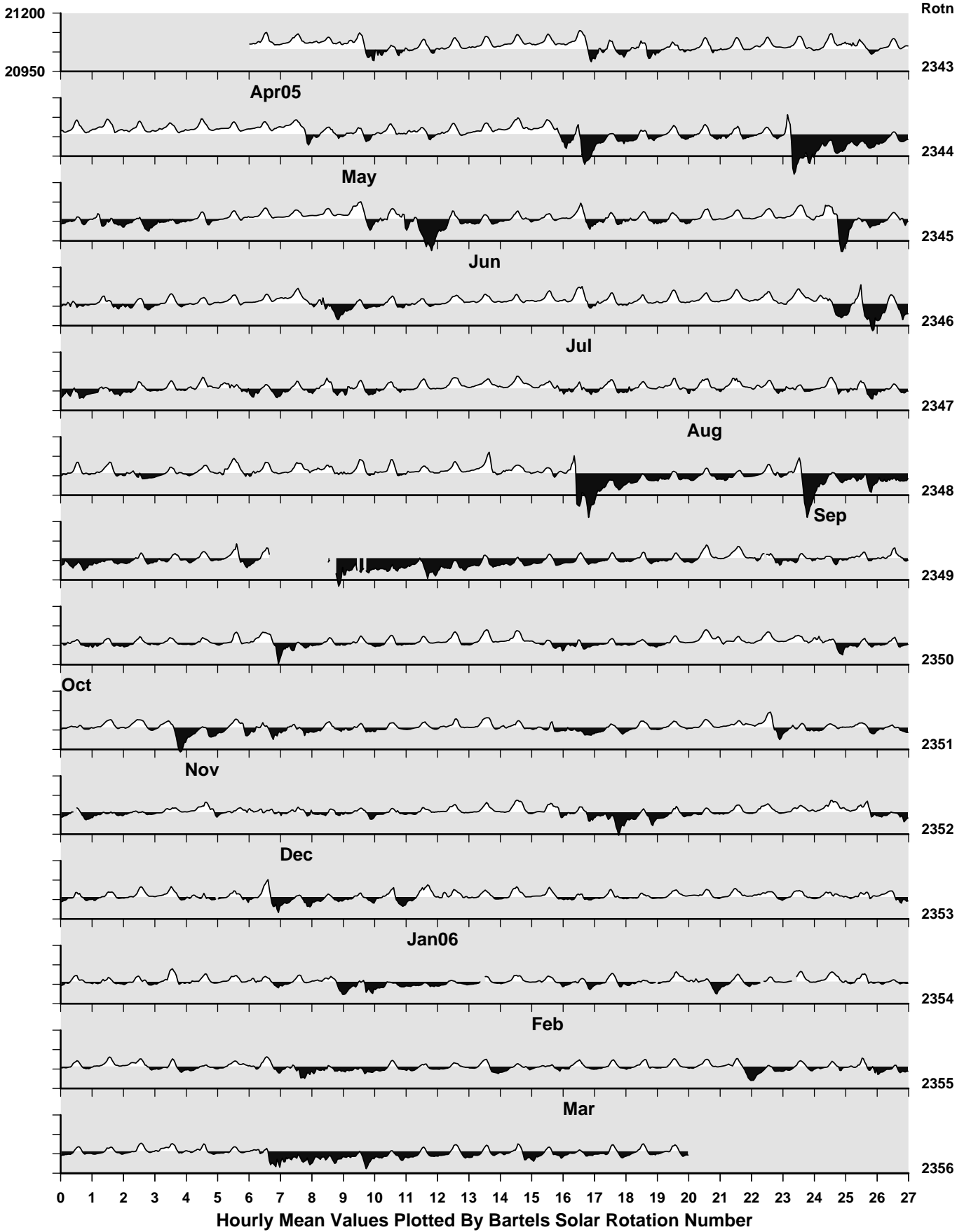
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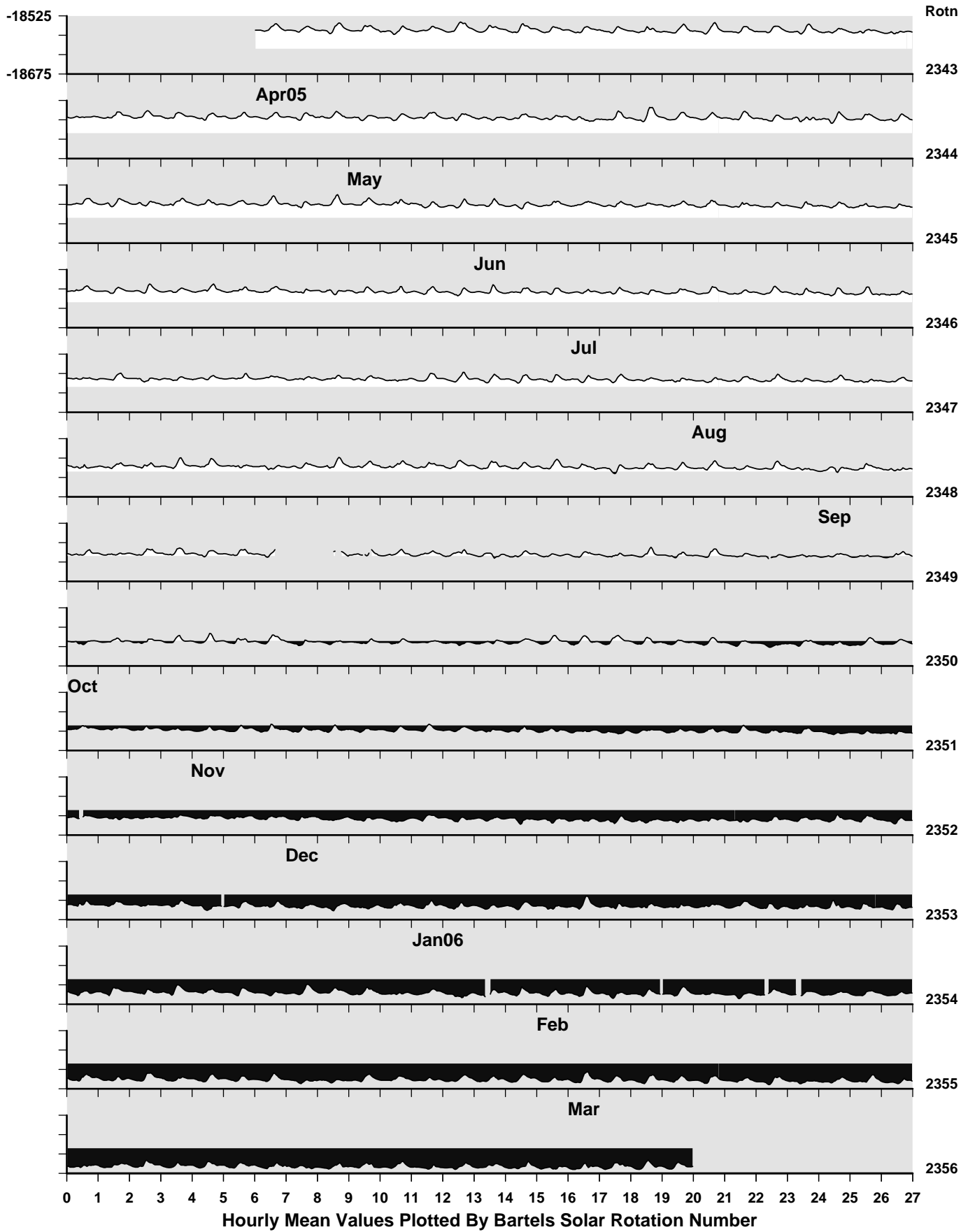
Ascension Island Observatory: Declination (degrees)



Ascension Island Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT)

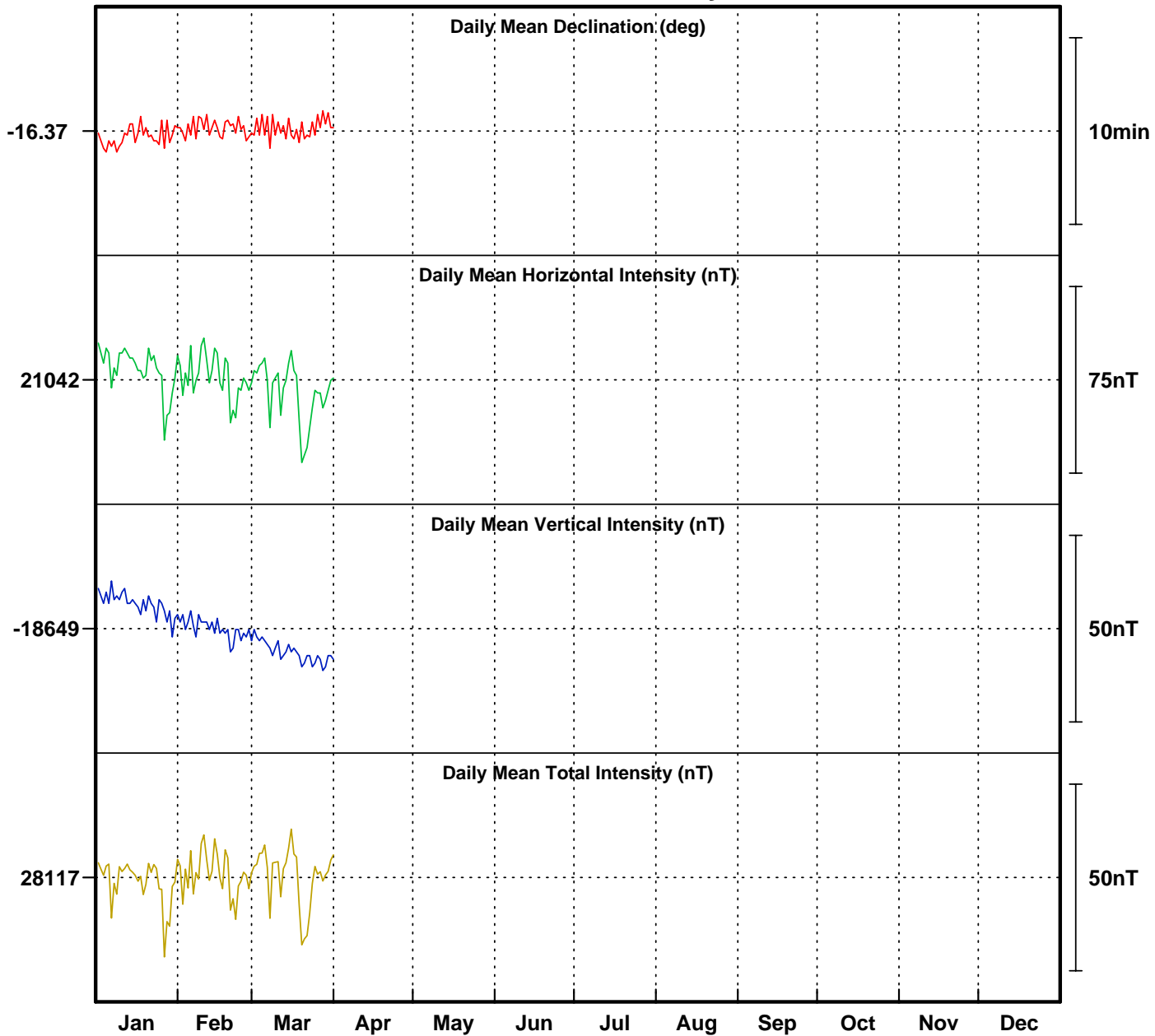


Ascension Island Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)



Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

Ascension Is Observatory 2006



Monthly Mean Values for Ascension Island Observatory 2006

Month	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>F</i>
January	-16° 22.6′	21047 nT	-41° 32.0′	20193 nT	-5934 nT	-18642 nT	28116 nT
February	-16° 22.1′	21043 nT	-41° 32.9′	20190 nT	-5930 nT	-18649 nT	28118 nT
March	-16° 22.1′	21037 nT	-41° 33.9′	20184 nT	-5929 nT	-18655 nT	28117 nT

Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.