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## Characterizing stream interactions and ICMEs using total perpendicular pressure

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The sum of the thermal plus magnetic pressure, whose gradient exerts a force perpendicular to the magnetic field, has a simple and characteristic profile during traversal of stream interactions and ICMEs, even though its component parameters may vary in a quite complex manner. We can use this behavior to diagnose and characterize both stream interaction regions (SIRs) and ICMEs. We use this parameter to prepare lists of SIRs and ICMEs and demonstrate the observed behavior with examples. In particular the peak pressure is a measure of the strength of the interaction.