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The Jurčák criterion: Magnetic property of boundaries in pores, proto-spots, and umbrae

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The various ways of energy transport in radiatively driven magneto-convection determine the structure of sunspots. At first glance, sunspots are composed of a dark umbra and a brighter penumbra. The transition between umbral and penumbral has only recently been discovered to depend on an invariant magnetic property: a value of 1860 G for the vertical magnetic field component. This Jurčák criterion states that region with values smaller than that value are prone to form a penumbra, and that fully-fledged stable sunspots have their umbral-penumbral boundary at that value. We use HMI@SDO and GRIS@GREGOR spectro-polarimetric data to further investigate the boundaries of pores, proto-spots, and umbrae in order to elaborate on the consequences of the Jurčák criterion for the stability of these magnetic manifestions.