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**Gabriel Navarro** and **Pham Huu Tiep\*** (tiap@math.arizona.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. *Brauer's height zero conjecture for the 2-blocks of maximal defect.* Preliminary report.

Brauer's Height Zero Conjecture states that all irreducible complex characters in a  $p$ -block  $B$  of a finite group  $G$  have height zero if and only if the defect groups of  $B$  are abelian. We prove the conjecture for every 2-block of maximal defect. (Received August 25, 2010)