Abstract Submitted for the DAMOP18 Meeting of The American Physical Society

High-precision comparison of two optical ion clocks for hundredfold improved bounds on Lorentz violation CHRISTIAN SANNER¹, NILS HUNTEMANN, RICHARD LANGE, CHRISTIAN TAMM, EKKEHARD PEIK, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, MARIANNA SAFRONOVA, SERGEY PORSEV, University of Delaware — We present a long-term frequency comparison over a period of six months between two optical clocks with single ¹⁷¹Yb⁺ ions in separate ion traps, showing an agreement to within 3×10^{-18} . The two ions with their anisotropic electron momentum distributions in the metastable ${}^{2}F_{7/2}$ manifold are aligned along orthogonal quantization axes tilted with respect to Earth's axis of rotation. From the absence of an observed sidereal modulation of their frequency difference on the 2×10^{-18} level we deduce limits on a possible violation of Lorentz symmetry for electrons (and photons) in the range of 10^{-21} , an improvement on previous experiments [T. Pruttivarasin et al., Nature 517, 592 (2015)] by two orders of magnitude.

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Date submitted: 30 Jan 2018

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