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The neutron-proton mass difference

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We present a Lattice calculation of the mass difference between neutron and proton, obtained at 1st order in the QED coupling α_{EM} and in the mass difference between u and d quarks $\frac{m_d - m_u}{\Lambda_{QCD}}$. We adopt a purely hadronic scheme to renormalize the theory and to separate the QED and strong IB contributions.

The simulation is carried out using the ETMC gauge configurations with $N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$ dynamical quarks. We extrapolate among 3 values of the lattice spacing and pion masses in the range \mbox{$M_\pi \simeq 200 - 450$ MeV}.

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