

## Electrostatic energy minimisation by simulated annealing

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## Corrigendum

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Some of the configurations shown in figure 1 of our letter correspond to local minima, rather than the actual ground state. We present a list of new minima in table 1. These have been obtained as best results out of ten independent anneals, using exactly the same procedure as described in our letter. We have compared these answers with results obtained from steepest descent optimisation of initial configurations consisting of two concentric rings of charges. The global minima found in the two cases are in full agreement.

**Table 1.** List of minimum energy configurations for  $N$  charges confined to a circle ( $n_1$  = number of charges in inner ring at average distance  $r_1$  in units  $R$ ,  $E$  = energy in units  $q^2/R$ ).

$N$	$E$	$n_1$	$r_1$
16	116.45	1	0.000 00
17	133.82	2	0.312 67
18	152.48	2	0.306 12
19	172.49	3	0.392 72
20	193.63	3	0.385 54
21	216.18	3	0.378 90
22	240.12	4	0.438 26
23	265.20	4	0.431 47