From Organic Chemistry to Nanoscience: Studies on Aromatic Compounds.

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Since their interesting theoretical and practical implications, aromatic compounds play a central role in Organic Chemistry, being a frequent structural motif in many chemicals with a variety of appealing chemical, physical, biological and technological properties.

Our group has been involved in the research on many different aspects of aromatic compounds that include the following issues:

- a) Synthetic applications of biocatalysis.
- b) Non-covalent interactions of aromatic compounds.
- c) Towards the quantification of aromaticity.
- d) Computational toxicology of aromatic compounds.
- e) Peptide-arene hybrids: synthesis, structure and properties.
- f) Inhibitors of the protease calpain.
- g) Gold nanoparticles 'decorated' with peptide-biphenyl hybrids.
- h) Aromatic ionic liquids as electrolytes for batteries.
- i) Research on graphene.
- j) Setting an spin-off.

In the meeting, we will highlight some results on these different topics.

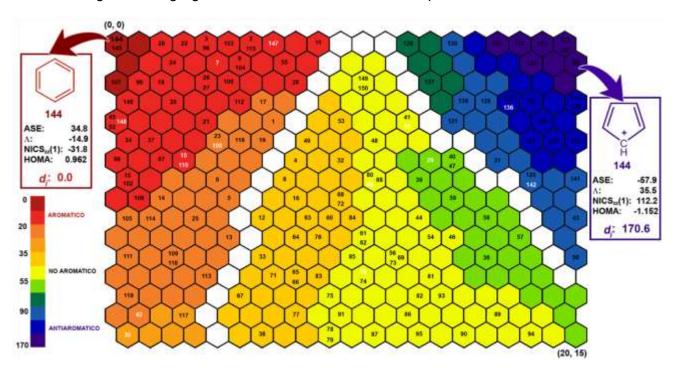


Figure 1: Neural network that classifies organic compounds based on their aromatic, non-aromatic, and antiaromatic characters. The Euclidean distance between neurons (relative to the one activated by benzene, the most aromatic compound) can be used as a quantitative scale of aromaticity.