Question #57916, Chemistry / Organic Chemistry

All these are electron donating groups with respect to reactivity and orientation, except:

$$-OH$$
, $-O-R$, $-NH-CO-R$, $-C\equiv N$

Answer:

There is one strong acceptor group between the listed substituents – it is the nitrile group $-C\equiv N$, which possesses negative inductive and mesomeric effects due to the highly unsaturated nature of $C\equiv N$ triple bond with sp hybridized electron orbitals of carbon atom. Also, formation of resonance structures with positively charged carbon makes a significant contribution to the electrophilic nature of nitrile group:

$$R-C\equiv N: \longrightarrow R-\stackrel{+}{C}=\stackrel{-}{N}:$$