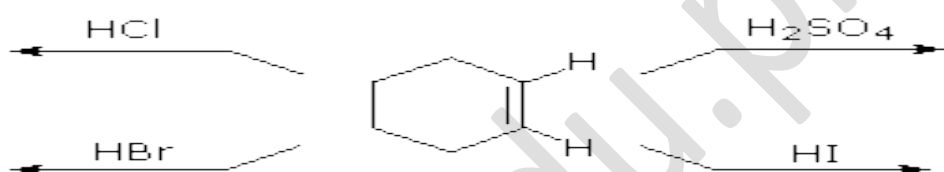


Mechanism of Reaction:



Weak Brønsted acids such as acetic acid do not normally add to alkenes. However, the addition of a strong acid serves to catalyze the addition of water, and in this way alcohols may be prepared from alkenes.

For example,

If sulphuric acid is dissolved in water it is completely ionized to the hydronium ion, $\text{H}_3\text{O}^{(+)}$, and this strongly acidic ($\text{pK}_a = -1.74$) species effects hydration of ethene and other alkenes.

