

## **Safeguarding Against Error Descartes' Response to Pyrrhonism**

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**Pyrrhonian skepticism: *an over-reaction to error***

**To protect against errors, especially of perception, we need a science that (1) has absolutely secure foundations and (2) covers not only the objects perceived, but the entire process involved in perceiving them, including causal links between them and us and the physiology of our perception, with special emphasis on where illusion and error can arise in each step of the process and what can be done to double-check against its having done so.**

***An example: Desargues' geometry of perspective***

***Upshot: Require a unified, fully comprehensive science, with absolutely secure foundations, versus a piecemeal science, based on limited empirical principles, in which different kinds of phenomena are investigated independently of one another.***

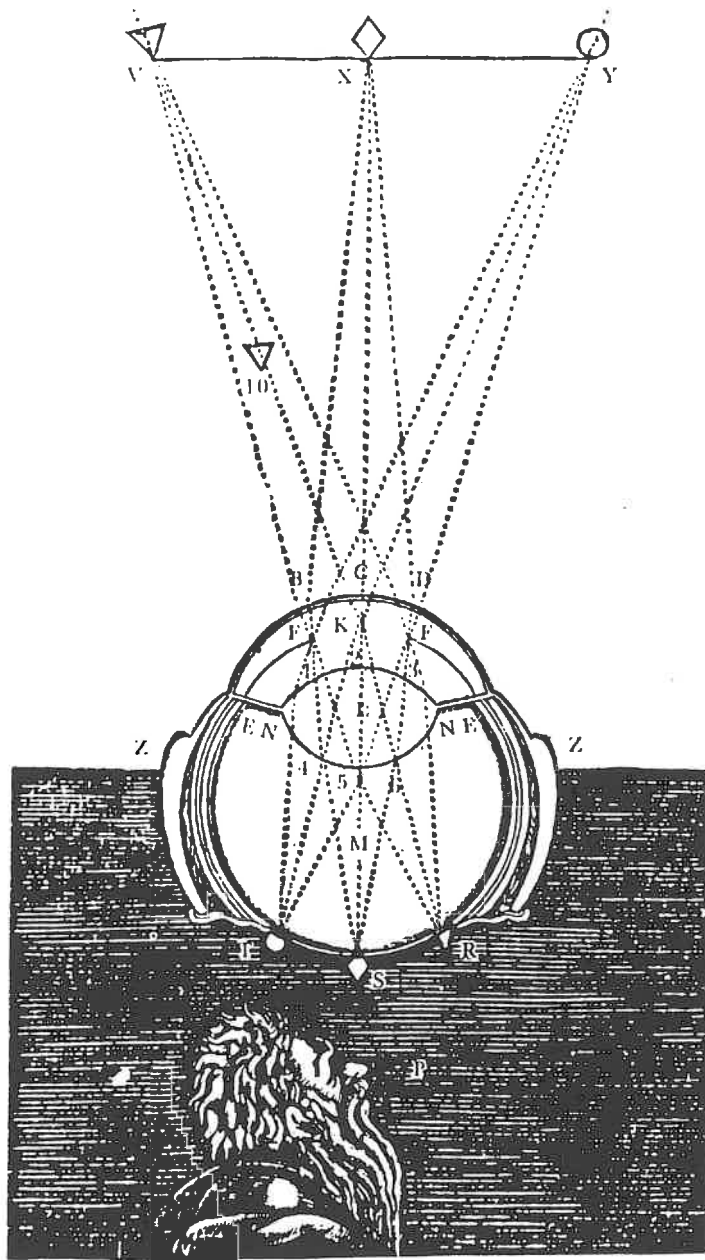


Fig. 9