

and similarly,  $\dim(P) + \dim(P^0) = n - 1$ .

A linear system  $P = \mathbf{P}(U)$  of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$  is called a *pencil of hyperplanes* if it corresponds to a projective line in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$ , which means that  $U$  is a subspace of dimension 2 of  $E^*$ . From  $\dim(P) + \dim(P^0) = n - 1$ , a pencil of hyperplanes  $P$  is the family of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$  containing some projective subspace  $\mathbf{P}(V)$  of dimension  $n - 2$  (where  $\mathbf{P}(V)$  is a projective subspace of  $\mathbf{P}(E)$ , and  $\mathbf{P}(E)$  has dimension  $n$ ). When  $n = 2$ , a pencil of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$ , also called a *pencil of lines*, is the family of lines passing through a given point. When  $n = 3$ , a pencil of hyperplanes in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$ , also called a *pencil of planes*, is the family of planes passing through a given line.

When  $n = 2$ , the above duality takes a rather simple form. In this case (of a projective plane  $\mathbf{P}(E)$ ), the duality is a bijection between points in  $\mathbf{P}(E)$  and lines in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$ , represented by pencils of lines in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$ , with the following properties:

- A point  $a$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E)$  maps to the line  $D_a$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  represented by the pencil of lines in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$  containing  $a$ , also denoted by  $a^*$ . See Figure 26.36.
- A line  $D$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E)$  maps to the point  $p_D$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  represented by the line  $D$  in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$ . See Figure 26.37.
- Two points  $a, b$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E)$  map to lines  $D_a, D_b$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  represented by pencils of lines through  $a$  and  $b$ , and the intersection of  $D_a$  and  $D_b$  is the point  $p_{\langle a, b \rangle}$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  corresponding to the line  $\langle a, b \rangle$  belonging to both pencils. The point  $p_{\langle a, b \rangle}$  is the image of the line  $\langle a, b \rangle$  via duality. See Figure 26.38
- A line  $D$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E)$  containing two points  $a, b$  maps to the intersection  $p_D$  of the lines  $D_a$  and  $D_b$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  which are the images of  $a$  and  $b$  under duality. This is because  $a, b$  map to lines  $D_a, D_b$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  represented by pencils of lines through  $a$  and  $b$ , and the intersection of  $D_a$  and  $D_b$  is the point  $p_D$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  corresponding to the line  $D = \langle a, b \rangle$  belonging to both pencils. The point  $p_D$  is the image of the line  $D = \langle a, b \rangle$  under duality. Once again, see Figure 26.38.
- If  $a \in D$ , where  $a$  is a point and  $D$  is a line in  $\mathbf{P}(E)$ , then  $p_D \in D_a$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$ . This is because under duality,  $a$  is mapped to the line  $D_a$  in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$  represented by the pencil of lines containing  $a$ , and  $D$  is mapped to the point  $p_D \in \mathbf{P}(E^*)$  represented by the line  $D$  through  $a$  in this pencil, so  $p_D \in D_a$ .

The reader will discover that the dual of Desargues's theorem is its converse. This is a nice way of getting the converse for free! We will not spoil the reader's fun and let him discover the dual of Pappus's theorem.

In general, when  $n \geq 2$ , the above duality is a bijection between points in  $\mathbf{P}(E)$  and hyperplanes in  $\mathbf{P}(E^*)$ , which are represented by linear systems of dimension  $n - 1$  in  $\mathcal{H}(E)$ , with the following properties: