Theorem 0.1. There exists the following functorial isomorphism

$$\alpha_{X,Y} \colon \operatorname{Hom}_{\operatorname{mod-}k}(X,Y) \simeq \operatorname{Hom}_{\operatorname{mod-}k}(Y,X)^{\vee}.$$

namely, Serre functor is identity in mod-k.

Proof.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} : \; \operatorname{Hom_{mod\text{-}k}}(Y,X) \times \operatorname{Hom_{mod\text{-}k}}(X,Y) & \longrightarrow & k \\ & & \cup \\ & (g,f) & \longmapsto & \operatorname{tr}(g \circ f) \end{array} \; .$$

First we prove this mapping defines perfect bilinear forms. Let $a_1, a_2 \in k$.

$$\operatorname{tr}((a_1g_1 + a_2g_2) \circ f) = \operatorname{tr}(a_1g_1 \circ f + g_2 \circ f) = a_1 \operatorname{tr}(g_1 \circ f) + a_2 \operatorname{tr}(g_2 \circ f)$$
$$\operatorname{tr}(g \circ (a_1f_1 + a_2f_2)) = \operatorname{tr}(a_1g \circ f_1 + a_2g \circ f_2) = a_1 \operatorname{tr}(g \circ f_1) + a_2 \operatorname{tr}(g \circ f_2)$$

Next, we prove nondegeneracy. Let $f \neq 0$: $X \to Y$. Choose $x \in X$ with $f(x) \neq 0$ and pick $\varphi \in Y^{\vee}$ with $\varphi(f(x)) \neq 0$. Define $g: Y \to X$ by

$$g(y) = \varphi(y)x.$$