

- (a) The graph of f decreases if we start at $(-x_0, y_0)$ and move in the positive x -direction, so $f_x(-x_0, y_0)$ is negative.
- (b) The graph of f decreases if we start at $(-x_0, y_0)$ and move in the positive y -direction, so $f_y(-x_0, y_0)$ is negative.