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We will report on the early stages of our work on the following project. We consider a mold of a uniform material. It is idealized as one-dimensional and of length one. The left endpoint,  $x=0$ , will be in contact with cooling molten metal. The right endpoint,  $x=1$ , will be exposed to air at a constant temperature. Assuming we know the temperature and heat flux at the right endpoint, we wish to recover the heat flux at the left endpoint. This problem is a close relative of the sideways heat equation, and our goal is to develop techniques that are stable with respect to noisy data at the right endpoint. (Received September 29, 2000)