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Now a flourishing branch of our discipline, with its own journal since 1992, "experimental" mathematics has been characterized as "the utilization of modern computer technology as an active tool in mathematical research". Taken literally, this definition obviously confines the history of the subject to the past few decades. But, no less obviously, the psychology and methodology implied by the definition have much older roots, some of which I shall here try to point out. In the spirit of this session one can ask to what extent Euler may be placed among the pioneers, and the answer is that he could serve as "poster boy". (Received February 21, 2007)