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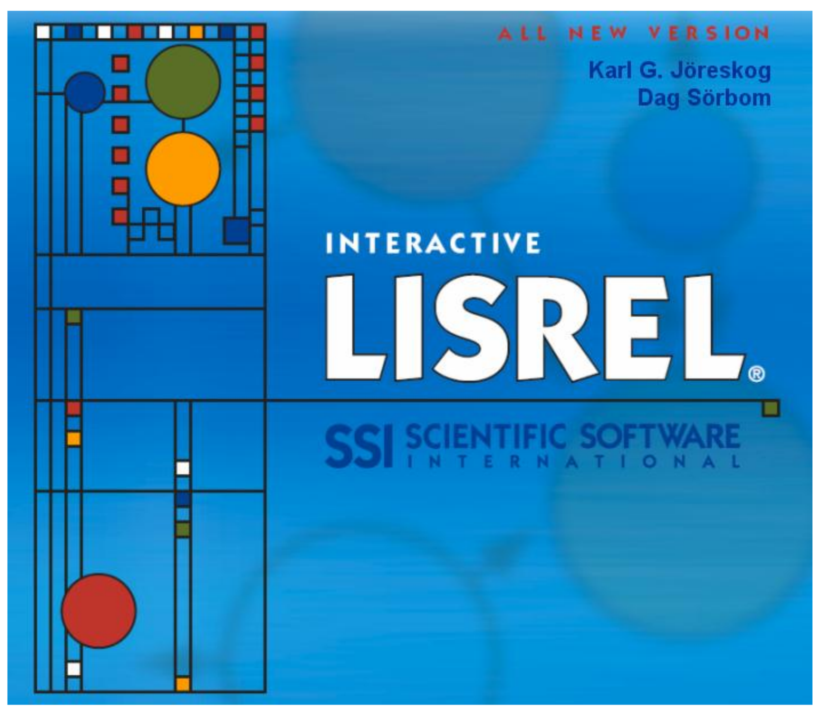

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07 and the LISREL family of programs are primarily used for exploratory purposes and not in the context of confirmatory measurement models. This paper explores the use of the LISREL software in the context of confirmatory analysis and also describes a number of recent extensions to the LISREL family of programs. 1. Introduction {#sec1} =============== Although it is sometimes stated that confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) is a special case of structural equation modeling (SEM), it is not completely correct. CFA provides little, if any, support for SEM in general, and for the structural part of SEM in particular. CFA merely offers a way of using the maximum likelihood (ML) method in the place of restricted maximum likelihood (REML) for the estimation of the structural parameters. These restrictions to the ML method mean that the maximum statistical efficiency is not obtained, and no inference about structural parameters can be made. Because the restriction means that the maximum likelihood is not maximized, it is typically only possible to obtain parameter estimates that are biased. Therefore, CFA provides the optimal solution only for the parameter estimates but not the model specification. In its extension to SEM, CFA has become synonymous with the LISREL software and the LISREL family of programs (e.g., Hayes & Cudeck, [@ref6]; Wermuth, [@ref27]). The use of these tools has become common and virtually synonymous with SEM. Therefore, a review of the original intent, limitations, assumptions, limitations of LISREL, and extensions is provided in the following sections. The main intent of this paper is to provide a more complete picture of the use of LISREL as a confirmatory tool in the context of the SEM methods. 2. The LISREL software {#sec2} ====================== The LISREL software was originally developed by Robert L. Srivastava and his colleagues at the University of Missouri in the early 1970s as part of a project to develop an evolutionary method for the estimation of multiple regression parameters. The intention of the LISREL software was to develop a tool that would be able to estimate regression parameters under constraints that ensure that the parameter estimates are both unbiased and statistically efficient. The most common assumption in SEM is that the data are normally distributed and that the residual errors are uncorrelated. In addition, SEM requires that the measurement errors are normally distributed and uncorrelated and that the 82157476af