

# SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS for DATA SCIENTISTS

today's menu: LAB: Introduction to Statistical Modeling with Networks (LAB Week 03)

Your lecturer: Roger

Playdate: September 16, 2025

# Today's menu

1. Homeplay
2. QAP findings
3. CUG findings and extension
4. Assessment and practical overview of the methods

How did the tutorial and homeplay go?

All clear?

Challenges?

# useful function to extract vertex attributes



```
attrs <- snafun::extract_all_vertex_attributes(louis)
attrs
```

	black_political_equality	democratic	Intercept	perc_black	perc_cath	perc_urban	vertex.names
1	80.7	75.8	1	19.7	83.0	55.8	1
2	79.0	59.8	1	24.8	45.4	33.3	2
3	68.6	74.8	1	31.9	88.2	33.4	3
4	68.2	71.7	1	41.2	95.9	0.0	4
5	42.8	76.0	1	27.8	87.1	25.1	5
6	55.3	48.7	1	22.4	11.0	37.5	6
7	1.0	17.6	1	49.4	0.2	15.2	7
8	16.5	25.2	1	24.9	9.0	66.0	8
9	20.5	24.8	1	36.5	10.2	80.8	9
10	69.4	64.4	1	20.9	52.6	73.9	10
11	7.9	34.0	1	27.8	1.3	0.0	11
12	75.0	83.1	1	6.4	78.8	0.0	12
13	23.9	26.2	1	35.2	0.0	0.0	13
14	1.0	12.7	1	50.3	1.5	39.7	14
15	14.5	23.1	1	46.3	10.4	43.4	15
16	16.2	26.7	1	57.5	10.4	24.1	16
17	43.4	46.6	1	31.8	36.6	85.1	17
18	0.0	23.9	1	61.2	27.7	40.1	18



```
adj <- snafun::to_matrix(louis)
w_adj <- adj/rowSums(adj)

mod <- snafun::stat_nam(democratic ~ perc_black +
                         perc_cath + perc_urban + black_political_equality,
                         data = attrs, W = w_adj)
```

```
Call:spatialreg::lagsarlm(formula = formula, data = data, listw = W,
  na.action = na.action, Durbin = Durbin, quiet = quiet, zero.policy = zero.policy)
```

Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-22.68996	-4.80434	0.58857	4.05038	17.69156

Type: lag

Coefficients: (asymptotic standard errors)

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	13.8735681	4.6729365	2.9689	0.002988
perc_black	-0.0040543	0.0718224	-0.0564	0.954984
perc_cath	0.2255374	0.0464735	4.8530	1.216e-06
perc_urban	-0.0979634	0.0365971	-2.6768	0.007433
black_political_equality	0.2957095	0.0589806	5.0137	5.340e-07

Rho: 0.30601, LR test value: 7.8801, p-value: 0.0049982

Asymptotic standard error: 0.096259

z-value: 3.179, p-value: 0.0014778

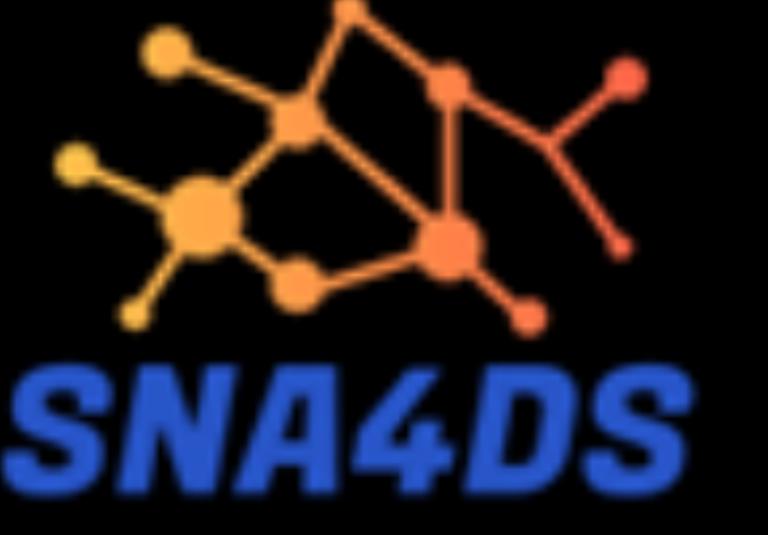
Wald statistic: 10.106, p-value: 0.0014778

Log likelihood: -216.5846 for lag model

ML residual variance (sigma squared): 49.81, (sigma: 7.0576)

Number of observations: 64

# *Today's menu*



Homeplay

What to  
use when?

# General approach

<b>When</b>	<b>Which approach</b>	<b>function</b>
Statistic on a single network	Conditionally Uniform Graph	sna::cug.test
Association between two networks	QAP	sna::qaptest
A valued dependent network and one or more explanatory networks	QAP linear model	sna::netlm
A binary dependent network and one or more explanatory networks	QAP logistic model	sna::netlogit

# Transitivity: conditioning on edges

R code      Output      Output plot

---

```
trans_f <- function(x, directed = FALSE) {  
  x <- snafun::fix_cug_input(x, directed = directed)  
  snafun::g_transitivity(x)  
}  
  
cug_trans_15 <- sna::cug.test(fifa2015, mode = "graph",  
                                FUN = trans_f,  
                                cmode = "edges", reps = 1000)  
cug_trans_15
```

OR

```
cug_trans_15 <- sna::cug.test(fifa2015,  
                                FUN = sna::gtrans,  
                                cmode = "edges",  
                                reps = 1000,  
                                FUN.args = list(mode = "graph"))  
cug_trans_15
```

# Transitivity: conditioning on edges

---

R code      Output      Output plot

---

Univariate Conditional Uniform Graph Test

Conditioning Method: edges

Graph Type: digraph

Diagonal Used: FALSE

Replications: 200

Observed Value: 0.6529858

Pr(X>=Obs): 0

Pr(X<=Obs): 1

# Transitivity: conditioning on edges

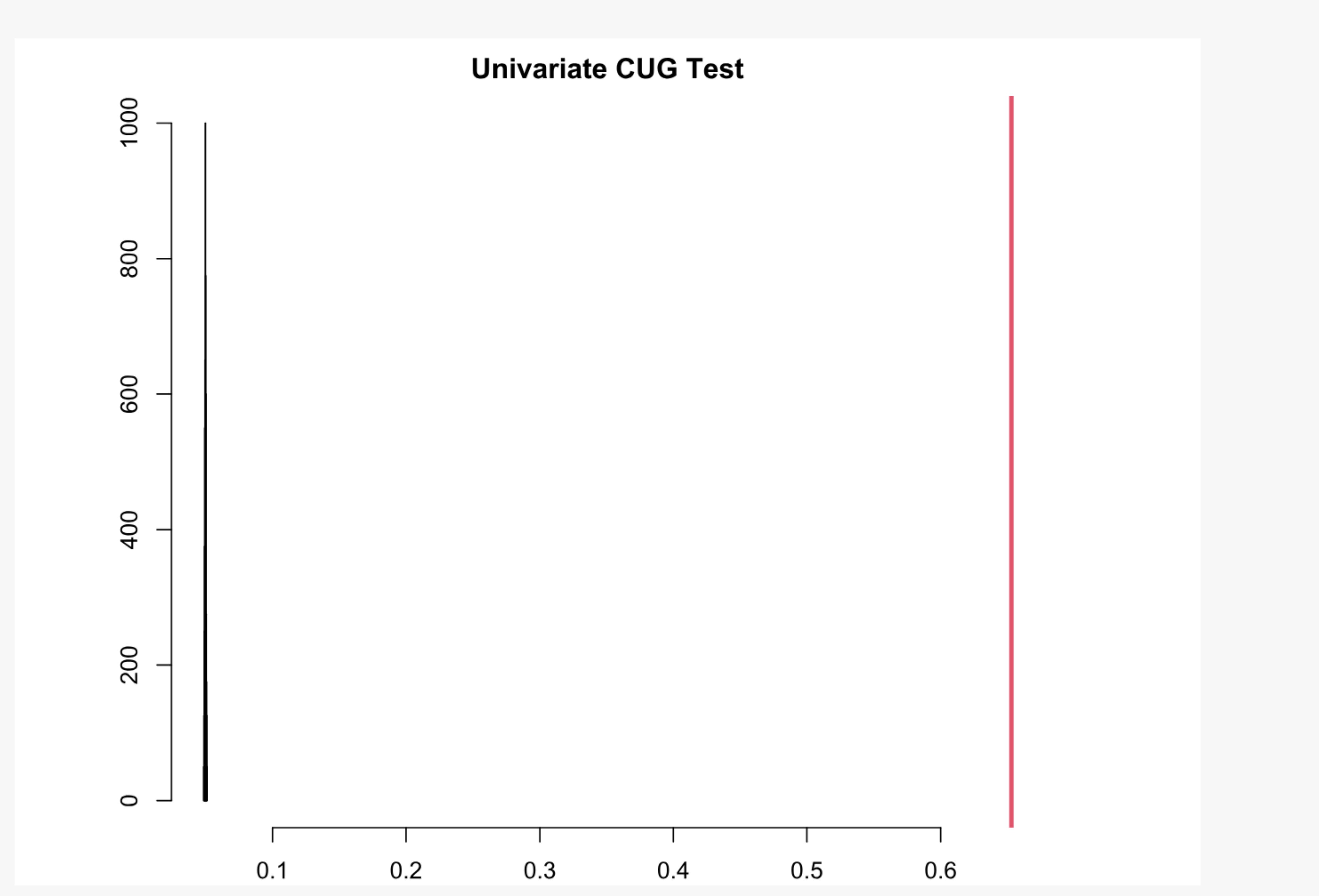


R code

Output

Output plot

```
plot(cug_trans_15)
```



Exceptionally strong friend-of-a-friend tendencies!

# Betweenness centralization



R code      Output      Plot output

---

```
### Conditioning on the dyad census

betw_f <- function(x, directed = FALSE) { # note: directed = FALSE!
  x <- snafun::fix_cug_input(x, directed = directed)
  snafun::g_centralize(x, measure = "betweenness", directed = directed)$centralization
}

cug_betw_06_ds <- sna::cug.test(fifa2006,
                                   mode = "graph", FUN = betw_f,
                                   cmode = "dyad.census", reps = 200)
cug_betw_06_ds
```

OR

```
cug_betw_06_ds <- sna::cug.test(fifa2006, FUN = sna::centralization,
                                   FUN.arg=list(FUN = sna::betweenness),
                                   mode="graph",
                                   reps = 200,
                                   cmode="dyad.census")
```

# Betweenness centralization

---

R code    Output    Plot output

---

Univariate Conditional Uniform Graph Test

Conditioning Method: dyad.census

Graph Type: graph

Diagonal Used: FALSE

Replications: 200

Observed Value: 0.1144484

Pr(X>=Obs): 0

Pr(X<=Obs): 1

# Betweenness centralization

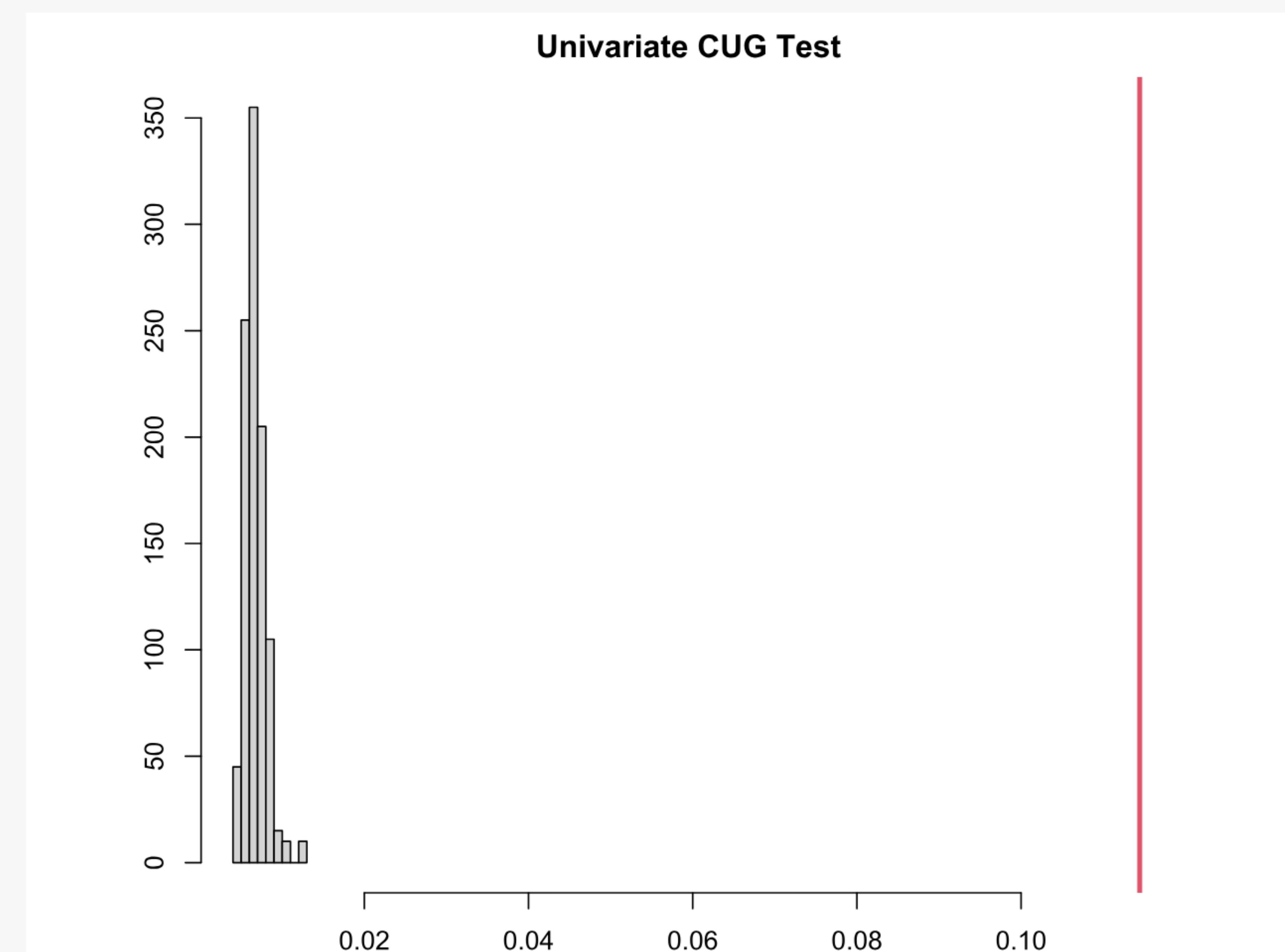


R code

Output

Plot output

```
plot(cug_betw_06_ds)
```



We see exceptionally strong betweenness centralization in FIFA.

What does this imply about how FIFA operates?

# Advanced CUG use



## Use your own measure for `sna::cug.test`

---

Intuition

Challenge

R code

Output

Plot output

---

You can define your own measures to use inside `sna::cug.test`, so you are not confined to only the measures implemented in `sna`. For example, you can test if the number of walktrap communities in the network is statistically significant.

# Advanced CUG use



## Use your own measure for sna::cug.test

---

[Intuition](#)[Challenge](#)[R code](#)[Output](#)[Plot output](#)

Test if the number of walktrap communities in the network is statistically significant for the `fifa2015` network.

You can use previous code as a template:

```
trans_f <- function(x, directed = FALSE) {  
  x <- snafun::fix_cug_input(x, directed = directed)  
  snafun::g_transitivity(x)  
}  
  
sna::cug.test(fifa2015, mode = "graph", FUN = trans_f, cmode = "edges", reps = 1000)
```

06 : 00

# Advanced CUG use



## Use your own measure for sna::cug.test

---

Intuition

Challenge

R code

---

Output

Plot output

---

```
walktrap_num_f <- function(x, directed = FALSE) { # note: directed = FALSE!
  x <- snafun::fix_cug_input(x, directed = directed)
  snafun::extract_comm_walktrap(x) |> length()
}

fifa_coms <- sna::cug.test(fifa2015, FUN = walktrap_num_f, mode = "graph",
                           diag = FALSE, cmode = "edges", reps = 1000)

fifa_coms
plot(fifa_coms)
```

# Advanced CUG use



## Use your own measure for sna::cug.test

Intuition

Challenge

R code

Output

Plot output

```
print(fifa_coms)
```

Univariate Conditional Uniform Graph Test

Conditioning Method: edges

Graph Type: graph

Diagonal Used: FALSE

Replications: 1000

Observed Value: 25

Pr(X>=Obs): 0

Pr(X<=Obs): 1

- There are more information-trapping communities (statistically significant) than you would expect of a network of this size and density.

# Advanced CUG use



## Use your own measure for sna::cug.test

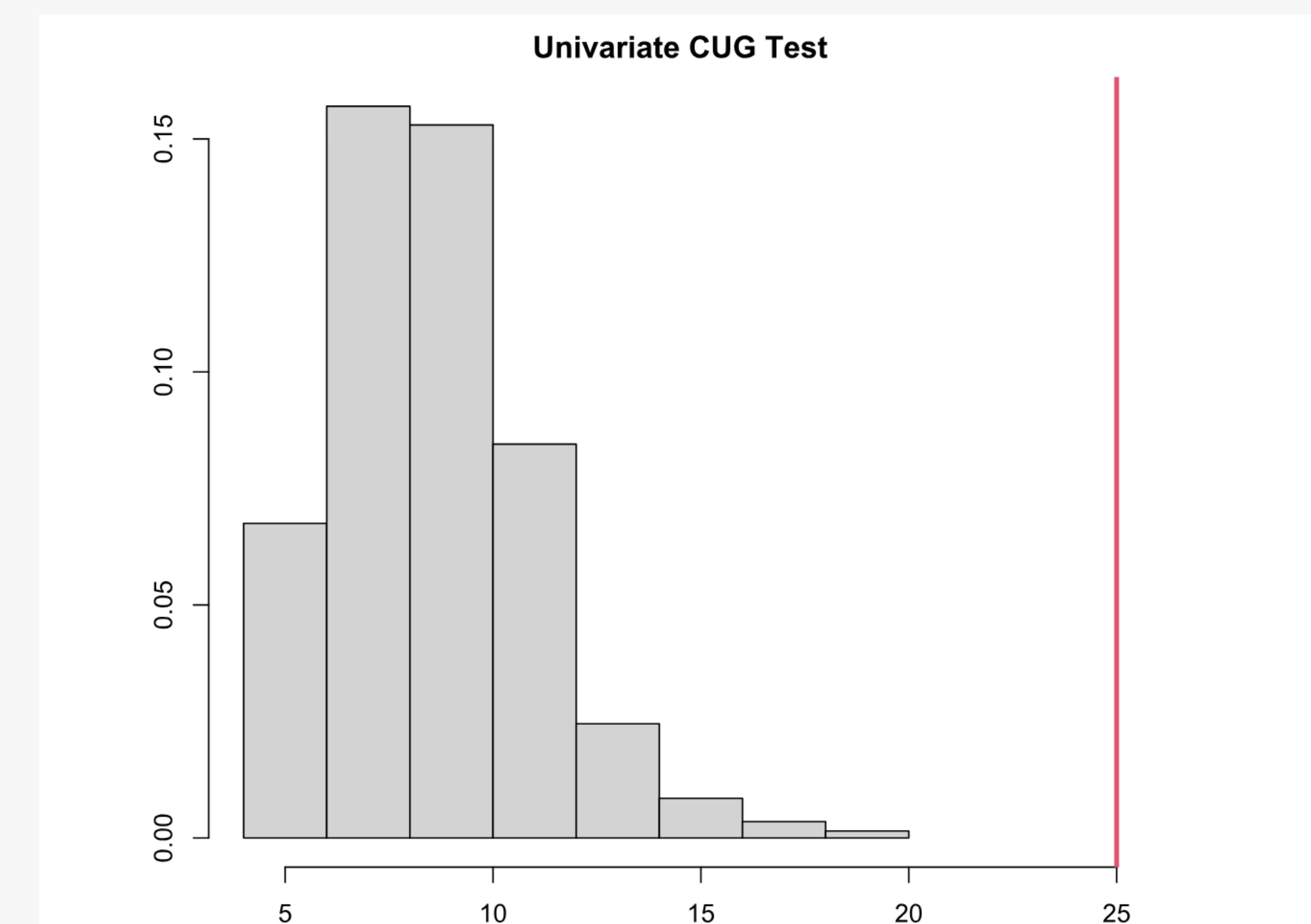
Intuition

Challenge

R code

Output

Plot output



# *Statistically modeling networks*



## Testing hypotheses

- use the simplest statistical model that suits your hypothesis test
  - QAP, MRQAP, Logistic QAP, and CUG are often great for simple hypotheses
  - use ERGM's to test more complex expectations

## Estimating parameters

- MRQAP, Logistic QAP, and ERGM's allow for parameter estimation

## Uncovering what the drivers are of the observed network

- ERGM's model the network as a whole and allow for much more modeling flexibility and options
  - this comes at the challenge of fitting a more complex model