Hello! Today I will be discussing how I tried to use network metrics to predict Sunday Night football matchups.

SNF

* Every Sunday night at 8pm ET, so it’s primetime television.
* Only NFL game being played at that time. Unlike earlier in the day where there are 3 or 4 games going at once.

Approach

* Playoff and regular season networks are constructed differently which I’ll explain in a second

2011 5-year graph

* 2006 – 2010

2011 3-year graph

* 2008 – 2010
* In 2006 and 2007 Patriots lost in afc championship and super bowl

2008 missed the playoffs,

2009 and 2010 lost first game

Results

* 32 sets of predictions b/w regular season and playoff with the 4 different windows

Best Results

* Combined degree was easily the best performer, but it averaged almost 30%
* Regular season around 13%
* Not convincing

Discussion

* Reunion games: Broncos v Colts
* Rivalry games: Packers v Bears
* Flex scheduling: Saints – Colts flexed out Colts for the rest of the season after Manning’s injury