

The claim is false; we show that for every natural number c , there exists a graph G so that $\text{diam}(G)/\text{apd}(G) > c$. First, we fix a number k (the relation to c will be determined later), and consider the following graph. We take a path on $k - 1$ nodes u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{k-1} in this order. We then attach $n - k + 1$ additional nodes $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-k+1}$, each by a single edge, to u_1 ; the number n will also be chosen below.

The diameter of G is equal to $\text{dist}(v_1, u_{k-1}) = k$. It is not difficult to work out the exact value of $\text{apd}(G)$; but we can get a simple upper bound as follows. There are at most kn 2-element sets with at least one element from $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{k-1}\}$. Each of these pairs is at most distance $\leq k$. The remaining pairs are all distance at most 2. Thus

$$\text{apd}(G) \leq \frac{2\binom{n}{2} + k^2n}{\binom{n}{2}} \leq 2 + \frac{2k^2}{n-1}.$$

Now, if we choose $n - 1 > 2k^2$, then we have $\text{apd}(G) < 3$. Finally, choosing $k > 3c$, we have $\text{diam}(G)/\text{apd}(G) > 3c/3 = c$.

¹ex85.422.171