A MAXIMAL SPANNING TREE

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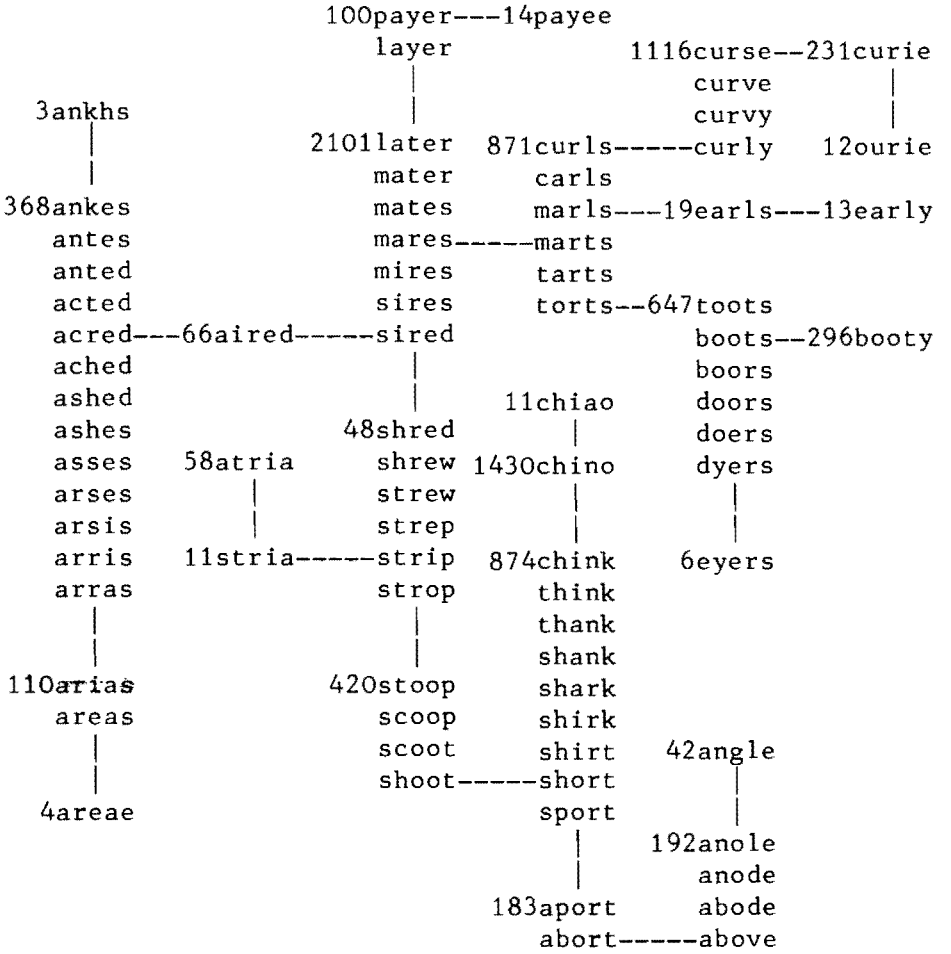
The five-letter word network given below is partitioned into 27 subnetworks, each having a unique vowel-consonant pattern (Y in first position is deemed a consonant, otherwise a vowel). All words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary; each subnetwork lists the total OSPD words in it. The network is a tree; there are no closed cycles. Since two subnetworks (one with CRWTH and PHPHT, the other with SCHMO and SCHWA) are unlinkable with the others, and three (vvvvv, vvvvc, vvvcv) are empty, the 27 that are left comprise a maximal spanning tree. No doubt a computer can be programmed to find one using fewer total words!