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!

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100payer---14payee
layer 116curse---231curie
curve curvy
3ankhs
3ankhs
2101later 871curls-----curly 12ourie
mater carls
carls mares
antes mares
mated mares
acted sires
acred---66aired-----sired
boots---296booty
ached 11chiao
axed boors
ashed 11chiao
doers
ashes 48shred
shred 1430chino
shrew chino
asses 58atraia
shrew atria
arses 1430chino
strew chino
arsis 1430chino
strep strep
arris 11stria------strip
874chink think
arras 874chink
strip think
arras
6eyes
arras
874chink
1stria------strip
110arias
1stria------strip
shark 42angle
4areas
shark
areas
scoop shirk
scoot shirk
areas
scoop shirk
scoot shirt
areas
scoop shirk
scoot shirt
sport 42angle
4areas
sport
sport
areas
sport
192angle
sport
183aport abode
aport-----above
abor-----above

DAVID MORIC
Iowa City, IA

Readers are shaws to th
and solution to appear o

Volatile: Love

In Language, palindromes work by printin
read the letter is the same if it's differe
He wrote to locate, and he cited PRIN
is true, and so is true...

A circular to the last LIG

Circular parts can be
SORRY is "a
different cir
appropriate to c
reversal, and so
In the poen