

a) The general solution for a vibrating string is a superposition of normal modes:

$$q(x,t) = \sum_n (\beta_n \cos \omega_n t + \gamma_n \sin \omega_n t) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \quad \omega_n = \frac{n\pi v}{L}$$

Each mode is independent. Now, if $\dot{q}(x,0) = 0$ and $q(x,0) = C \sin \frac{3\pi x}{L}$ it is easy to see that we start with $q(x,0)$ that contains only $n=3$ mode. That is $\beta_n \propto \delta_{n3}$ and $\gamma_n \propto \delta_{n3}$ ($\sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ is orthogonal to $\sin \frac{3\pi x}{L}$ unless $n=3$). Further

$$\beta_3 = C \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_3 = 0$$

so the solution looks as follows

$$q(x,t) = C \cos \omega_3 t \sin \frac{3\pi x}{L} = C \cos \frac{3\pi v t}{L} \sin \frac{3\pi x}{L}$$

b) The initial shape of the string is antisymmetric with respect to the center point ($x=L/2$). Therefore, only the modes $n=2, 4, 6, \dots$ will contribute to the expansion of $q(x,t)$ in terms of the normal modes. The lowest and dominant normal frequency is then

$$\omega_2 = \frac{2\pi v}{L}$$

