

求函数 $f(x) = x^2 + x\sqrt{x^2-1}$ 的值域.

解: $\because x^2-1 \geq 0 \quad \therefore (x+1)(x-1) \geq 0 \quad \therefore x \in (-\infty, -1] \cup [1, +\infty)$

$\therefore f(x)$ 的定义域是: $(-\infty, -1] \cup [1, +\infty)$.

对 $\forall x_1, x_2 \in [1, +\infty)$, $x_1 < x_2$. 有: $1 \leq x_1 < x_2$.

$$\therefore 1 \leq x_1^2 < x_2^2 \quad \therefore 0 \leq x_1^2 - 1 < x_2^2 - 1 \quad \therefore 0 \leq \sqrt{x_1^2 - 1} < \sqrt{x_2^2 - 1}$$

$$\therefore 0 < x_1 < x_2 \quad \therefore 0 \leq x_1 \sqrt{x_1^2 - 1} < x_2 \sqrt{x_2^2 - 1}$$

$$\therefore 1 \leq x_1^2 + x_1 \sqrt{x_1^2 - 1} < x_2^2 + x_2 \sqrt{x_2^2 - 1}$$

$$\therefore f(x_1) < f(x_2) \quad \therefore f(x) \text{ 在 } [1, +\infty) \text{ 上严格单调递增.}$$

$$\therefore f(1) = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty \quad \therefore \text{当 } x \in [1, +\infty) \text{ 时, } f(x) \in [1, +\infty)$$

$$\text{当 } x \in (-\infty, -1] \text{ 时, } x^2 \geq 1 \quad \therefore x^2 - 1 \geq 0, \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \geq 0.$$

$$\therefore -\sqrt{x^2 - 1} \leq 0. \quad \therefore x \leq -1 \quad \therefore x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \leq -1 < 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore f(x) &= x^2 + x\sqrt{x^2 - 1} = x(x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1}) = \frac{x(x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1})(x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1})}{x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} = \frac{x}{x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{x}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{-x}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{|x|}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{\sqrt{x^2}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{x^2}}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore x \in (-\infty, -1] \quad \therefore x^2 \in [1, +\infty), \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{x^2}} \in [0, 1), \quad 1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{x^2}} \in [1, 2)$$

$$\therefore f(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{x^2}}} \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1]$$

$$\therefore \text{当 } x \in (-\infty, -1] \cup [1, +\infty) \text{ 时, } f(x) \in (\frac{1}{2}, +\infty). \quad f(x) \text{ 的值域为 } (\frac{1}{2}, +\infty).$$