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***k*-Set contractive retractions and *k*-set contractions
in spaces of continuous functions**

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Let X be an infinite-dimensional Banach space, and let B and S be its close unit ball and unit sphere, respectively. A continuous mapping $R : B \rightarrow S$ is said to be a retraction provided that $x = Rx$ for all $x \in S$. We prove that in some Banach spaces of continuous functions for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a retraction of the close unit ball onto the unit sphere being a $(1 + \varepsilon)$ -set contraction. This result and the properties of the fixed-point index of a k -set contraction with $k < 1$ are the main tools in order to obtain a theorem on the existence of positive eigenvalues of k -set contractions.