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# INFLUENCE OF THERMAL TREATMENT ON THE ELECTROCHROMIC PROPERTIES OF SODIUM INTERCALATED VANADIUM(V) OXIDE XEROGEL THIN FILMS

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Vanadium(V) oxide xerogels are promising materials for application in different electrochromic devices. The present contribution is focused on the effect of thermal annealing at 250 and 400 °C on the electrochromic properties of as-deposited Na<sub>0.33</sub>V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O thin films. The structure and morphology of the annealed films is examined by XRD, IR spectroscopy and SEM. The annealing at 250 °C produces xerogel with composition of Na<sub>0.33</sub>V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>·0.3H<sub>2</sub>O exhibiting an inter-layered distance not significantly changed in comparison with the as-deposited xerogel. The total dehydration at 375 °C results in the transformation of the layered structure into a tunnel structure of monoclinic NaV<sub>6</sub>O<sub>15</sub>. The electrochemical and optical properties of the annealed films are studied in LiClO<sub>4</sub> in propylene carbonate as an electrolyte. The cyclic voltammetry measurements show that the lithium ions are reversibly intercalated/deintercalated during the cathodic and anodic potential sweep which is accompanied with reversible colour transformations due to the redox reactions between V(V) and V(IV) sites. The partially dehydrated xerogel films exhibit better electrochromic activity ( $\Delta T$  of 54 %) in comparison with the as-deposited film ( $\Delta T$  of 37 %) and the annealed at 400 °C film ( $\Delta T$  of 27 %).