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Development of a Polarized $^3\text{He}^{++}$ Ion Source for the EIC

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The capability of accelerating a high-intensity polarized ^3He ion beam would provide an effective polarized neutron beam for the study of new high-energy QCD studies of nucleon structure. This development is essential for the future Electron Ion Collider, which could use a polarized ^3He ion beam to probe the spin structure of the neutron. The proposed polarized ^3He ion source is based on the Electron Beam Ion Source (EBIS) currently in operation at Brookhaven National Laboratory. ^3He gas would be polarized within the 5 T field of the EBIS solenoid via Metastability Exchange Optical Pumping (MEOP) and then pulsed into the EBIS vacuum and drift tube system where the ^3He will be ionized by the 10 Amp electron beam. The goal of the polarized ^3He ion source is to achieve 2.5×10^{11} $^3\text{He}^{++}$ /pulse at 70% polarization. An upgrade of the EBIS is currently underway. An absolute polarimeter and spin-rotator is being developed to measure the ^3He ion polarization at 6 MeV after initial acceleration out of the EBIS. The source is being developed through collaboration between BNL and MIT.

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