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**Polarized  $^3\text{He}^{++}$  Source Development For Future Electron Ion Collider At BNL** ANATOLI ZELENSKI, Brookhaven National Laboratory — The nuclear polarization in polarized  $^3\text{He}$  nuclei is mostly carried by neutrons. The  $^3\text{He}^{++}$  beam polarization produced in the source can be preserved during acceleration in high-energy synchrotron accelerators like AGS and RHIC by using the “Siberian snake” technique. In effect, in electron- $^3\text{He}$  nuclei collisions at EIC we can study the fundamental interactions of polarized electron beam with high-energy polarized neutron beam, complimentary to the studies of the polarized electrons with polarized proton beam collisions. We proposed a new polarization technique for production of high intensity  $^3\text{He}^{++}$  ion beam, which is based on ionization of  $^3\text{He}$  gas (polarized by metastability exchange technique) in the Electron Beam Ion Source (EBIS). The development of the source for EIC is now in progress in collaboration between BNL and MIT. In this paper we will present the recent progress in studies of limitation on the maximum attainable nuclear polarization in the metastability exchange technique in high 5.0T EBIS magnetic field and depolarization effects during polarized  $^3\text{He}$  gas injection to the EBIS and multi-step ionization processes.

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