

Received: 26/02/2025
Research Article

Revised: 16/04/2025

Accepted: 23/06/2025

Published online: 30/06/2025



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UDC 539.171

A COMPREHENSIVE PHENOMENOLOGICAL, SEMI-MICROSCOPIC, AND CRC ANALYSIS OF ^{15}N ELASTIC SCATTERING FROM ^{13}C AND ^{19}F NUCLEI

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Abstract. In the present study, the angular distributions obtained at beam energies $E_{lab} = 30.0, 32.0$ and 45.0 MeV for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ reaction and $E_{lab} = 23.0, 26.0$ and 29.0 MeV for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ system were subjected to a comprehensive reanalysis using the optical model, the double folding model, and the coupled reaction channel (CRC) method. The main objective of the study was to establish the optimal optical potential through phenomenological and semi-microscopic analysis. Through careful calculations, the acceptable parameters of the potentials and their energy dependencies were derived for both nuclear systems. Notably, the angular distributions were well reproduced, indicating the effectiveness of the theoretical models used. In back angle scattering analysis, the CRC has very good agreement with the experimental values. As a result of the analysis, spectroscopic amplitudes were extracted for the $^{15}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C} + d$ and $^{19}\text{F} \rightarrow ^{15}\text{N} + \alpha$ configurations at different energies of the incident ^{15}N ions. The obtained results of spectroscopic amplitudes were subsequently compared with previously reported values, facilitating an assessment of the consistency and accuracy of the present work.

Keywords: elastic scattering, optical model, double-folding model, elastic transfer, spectroscopic amplitude.

1. Introduction

Elastic scattering in nuclear physics is a key method for studying nuclear structure and nucleon-nucleon interactions. The angular distribution of scattered particles, resembling light diffraction by an opaque disk, is effectively analyzed using the optical model (OM), which provides a reliable framework for describing scattering phenomena [1]. Elastic scattering data helps map nuclear matter distribution and understand nuclear properties. Among various theoretical models, including the shell and cluster models, the OM has been a cornerstone in analyzing charged particle scattering for decades. The OM is commonly used to describe the scattering of different systems, including elastic [2–7] and elastic transfer [8–11] scattering.

In this study, OM is applied to analyze the angular distribution of elastic scattering for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ nuclear systems. The goal is to identify the optimal optical potential, refine its parameters, and determine reaction cross sections. Early investigations in this field began with Gamp A. [12] in 1975, who studied $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ scattering at energies of 30.0, 32.0, and 45.0 MeV, using phenomenological Woods-Saxon potentials. Later, Gamp A. in [13] extended work to $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ scattering at energies of 23.0, 26.0, and 29.0 MeV, analyzing differential cross sections with a range of complex potentials. By incorporating OM into the analysis, this study provides deeper insights into the nuclear interactions of these systems. In practice,

multiple parameters set often provide equally good fits to the data, raising the critical question of whether some are more physically meaningful than others, and, if so, which should be prioritized. This emphasizes the need to assess the physical relevance of each parameter set and choose the most suitable one to ensure the results are both reliable and easy to interpret.

Accurately determining the optical potential through phenomenological analysis alone is challenging due to ambiguities in the complex parameter space. Thus, it is essential to constrain the potential within physical boundaries before parameter optimization. To address this, the double-folding model (DF) is employed to identify physically meaningful optical potential parameters [14–17].

In this study, we investigate the $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ nuclear systems using the standard optical model, combining both phenomenological and semi-microscopic approaches. Experimental angular distribution data were analyzed with the FRESCO and SFRESCO codes [18] to derive nuclear potentials and reaction cross-section parameters. The organization of the manuscript is as follows: section 1 Introduction, section 2 research within the framework of OM and DF with suitable optical parameters of the potentials. Section 3 analyzes the data within the CRC, presenting the results and leading the discussion. The conclusion is presented in section 4.

2. OM, DF analysis of $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$, $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$

The experimental data for the $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ nuclear systems were reanalyzed phenomenologically and semi-microscopically under the standard OM. In the first approach, the differential cross-sections were calculated in the framework of the phenomenological OM, and the interaction potential was found by fitting the computed cross-sections to the experimental data.

Within this model, the total interaction potential has a shape:

$$U(r) = -V_0 \left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{r - R_V}{a_V}\right) \right]^{-1} - iW_0 \left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{r - R_W}{a_W}\right) \right]^{-1} + V_c(r), \quad (1)$$

where V_0 real potential depth, W_0 imaginary potential depth, a_V, a_W are the diffuseness of real and imaginary potential parts; r_V, r_W : the reduced radii of these potential parts. These six parameters were allowed to vary independently.

$V_c(r)$ the Coulomb potential is defined as follows [19]:

$$V_c(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{2R_C} \left(3 - \frac{r^2}{R_C} \right) & \text{for } r < R_C \\ \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r} & \text{for } r \geq R_C \end{cases}, \quad (2)$$

where R_C -Coulomb potential radius.

The optical potential can also be determined using semi-microscopic methods [20], which incorporate the internal structure of the interacting nuclei. In this approach, the nuclear-nuclear potential is derived from the nucleon-nucleon (NN) interaction [21, 22]. Effective NN interaction takes into account even and odd components of the central forces. The real potential is the sum of direct and exchange potentials[23]:

$$\underline{V} = V^D + V^{EX}. \quad (3)$$

The direct term of folding potential is given by:

$$V^D(R) = \iint \rho^{(1)}(r_1) v_D(s) \rho^{(2)}(r_2) dr_1 dr_2, \quad (4)$$

where, $v^D(s)$ - is the direct component of the effective NN interaction, $\rho^{(1)}, \rho^{(2)}$ - densities of colliding nuclei, R - distance between nucleus $\left| \underline{R} \right|$.

Exchange term of folding potential is given by the expression:

$$V^{EX}(R) = \iint \rho^{(1)}(r_1, r_1 + s) v_{EX}(s) \rho^{(2)}(r_2, r_2 + s) \exp[ik(R)s/M] dr_1 dr_2, \quad (5)$$

where $v_{EX}(s)$ - is the exchange component of the effective NN - interaction, $\rho^{(i)}(r, r')$ is the density matrix of colliding nuclei, $s = \left| \mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{R} \right|$ is the distance between interaction nucleons, M is reduced mass, $k(R)$ - local momentum of relative motion.

M3Y-Reid interaction is given in terms of Yukawa potential as follows [24]:

$$\begin{aligned} v_D(s) &= 7999.0 \frac{e^{-4s}}{4s} - 2134.25 \frac{e^{-2.5s}}{2.5s} \\ v_{EX}(s) &= 4631.4 \frac{e^{-4s}}{4s} - 1787.87 \frac{e^{-2.5s}}{2.5s} - 7.8474 \frac{e^{-0.7072s}}{-0.7072s} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The equation of state of the optical potential is constructed depending on the density:

$$v_{D(EX)}(\rho, s) = f(\rho)v_{D(EX)}(s), \quad (7)$$

where ρ - is the density of the medium in which the nucleons is located. $f(\rho)$ - density dependence factor.

Density dependence factor takes the following form:

$$f(\rho) = C(1 + \alpha \exp(-\beta\rho) - \gamma\rho), \quad (8)$$

C , α , β , γ - parameters of factor which reproduce the saturation process of nuclear matter in the calculations. The values are given in the Table 1.

The modified harmonic oscillator (MHO) model was used to calculate the matter density distribution of nuclei ^{13}C , ^{15}N [25]:

$$\rho(r) = \rho_0(1 + \alpha(r/a)^2 \exp(-(r/a)^2)), \quad (9)$$

where $a = 1.81$ fm and $\alpha = 1.25$ fm for ^{15}N and $a = 1.635$ fm and $\alpha = 1.403$ fm for ^{13}C respectively.

The nucleon density distribution in the ^{19}F nucleus is expressed as a two-parameter Fermi [25] function as follows:

$$\rho(r) = \rho_0 / (1 + \exp(r - c)/z), \quad (10)$$

where $c = 2.59$ fm and $z = 0.564$ fm for ^{19}F .

Experimental data for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ system are analyzed at energies $E_{\text{lab}} = 30.0, 32.0, \text{ and } 45$ MeV, and for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ are analyzed at energies $E_{\text{lab}} = 23.0, 26.0$ and 29.0 MeV in the framework of OM, DF. The density dependent parameters included in the folding potentials are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. M3Y-Reid potentials coefficients

Density dependence	C	A	$\beta(\text{fm}^3)$	$\gamma(\text{fm}^3)$	$K(\text{MeV})$
CDM3Y1-Reid	0.3429	3.0232	3.5512	0.5	188

In the framework of the optical model of DF, the real part of the optical potential is created by folding the NN interaction with the nuclear matter density distribution in the ground state of projectile nuclei $\rho^{(1)}(r_1)$ and target nuclei $\rho^{(2)}(r_2)$. Total interaction potential has DF potential is for the real part and WS volume potential is for the imaginary part:

$$U(r) = N_r [V^D(r) + V^{EX}(r)] - iW_0 \left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{r - R_W}{a_W}\right) \right]^{-1} + V_c(r), \quad (11)$$

where N_r - is the renormalization factor of the real potential part.

The obtained optimal potential parameters for $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ elastic scattering, together with the values of χ^2/N are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Identified parameters as a result of the analysis of OM and DF for the $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ systems. Coulomb radius fixed: $r_c=1.25\text{fm}$

E MeV	Model	V_0 MeV	r_V fm	a_V fm	W_0 MeV	r_W fm	a_W fm	χ^2/N up to 90°	χ^2/N up to 180°	N_r
$^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$										
30.0	OM	133.09	1.09	0.54	9.92	1.18	0.49	6.5 ± 0.01	23.93 ± 0.8	-
	DFOM	CDM3Y1- Reid			9.79	1.24	0.49	7.74 ± 0.01	29.62 ± 0.5	0.92
32.0	OM	130	0.8	0.63	14.36	0.8	0.31	3.7 ± 0.01	32.0 ± 0.4	-
	DFOM	CDM3Y1- Reid			14.3	1.2	0.59	5.25 ± 0.01	43.0 ± 1.2	0.90
45.0	OM	124.78	1.02	0.704	21.12	1.13	0.2	17.76 ± 0.6	27.81 ± 0.8	-
	DFOM	CDM3Y1- Reid			21.12	1.13	0.2	20.74 ± 0.8	34.11 ± 0.6	1.21
$^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$										
23.0	OM	83.55	1.19	0.53	33.53	1.34	0.29	0.17 ± 0.01	1.94 ± 0.08	-
	DFOM	CDM3Y1- Reid			33.64	1.4	0.39	1.05 ± 0.01	2.02 ± 0.01	0.817
26.0	OM	79.95	1.09	0.59	34.35	1.2	0.39	0.81 ± 0.03	8.39 ± 0.1	-
	DFOM	CDM3Y1- Reid			33.64	1.4	0.39	1.06 ± 0.01	2.02 ± 0.1	0.804
29.0	OM	78.93	1.16	0.57	36.0	1.31	0.28	1.65 ± 0.01	5.52 ± 0.08	-
	DFOM	CDM3Y1- Reid			36.64	1.37	0.39	1.69 ± 0.02	6.3 ± 0.2	0.812

Figures 1 and 2 depict the phenomenological and semi-microscopic cross sections (respectively) derived from the parameters of the $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ system at $E_{\text{lab}}=30.0, 32.0, 45.0$ MeV, as well as the $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ system at incident energies $E_{\text{lab}}=23.0, 26.0, 29.0$ MeV. Despite obtaining optimal parameters in the framework of OM and DF which will describe the experimental data in the forward angles, the description in the full angular range is difficult (it shows χ^2/N up to 180°).

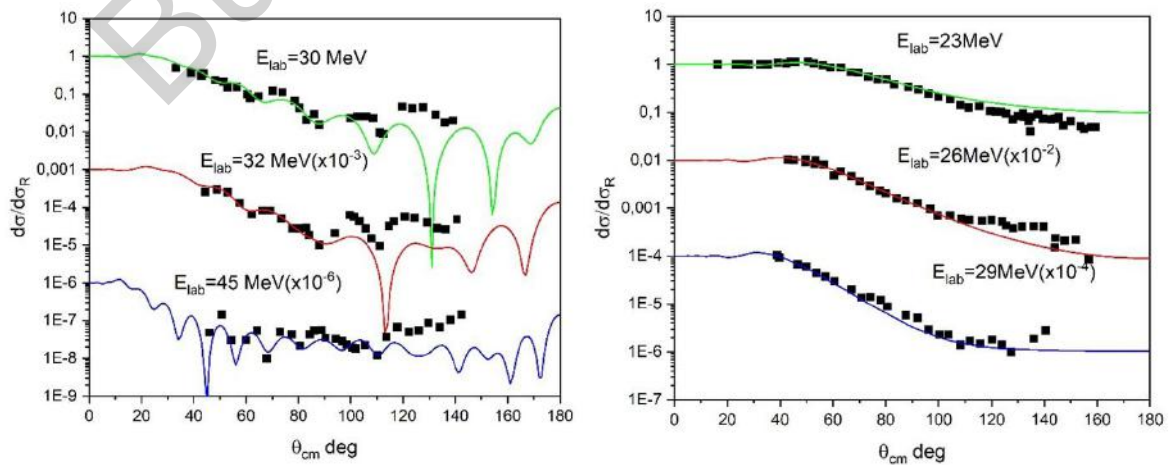


Fig.1. OM cross-sections for $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ (left) and $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ (right) nuclear systems

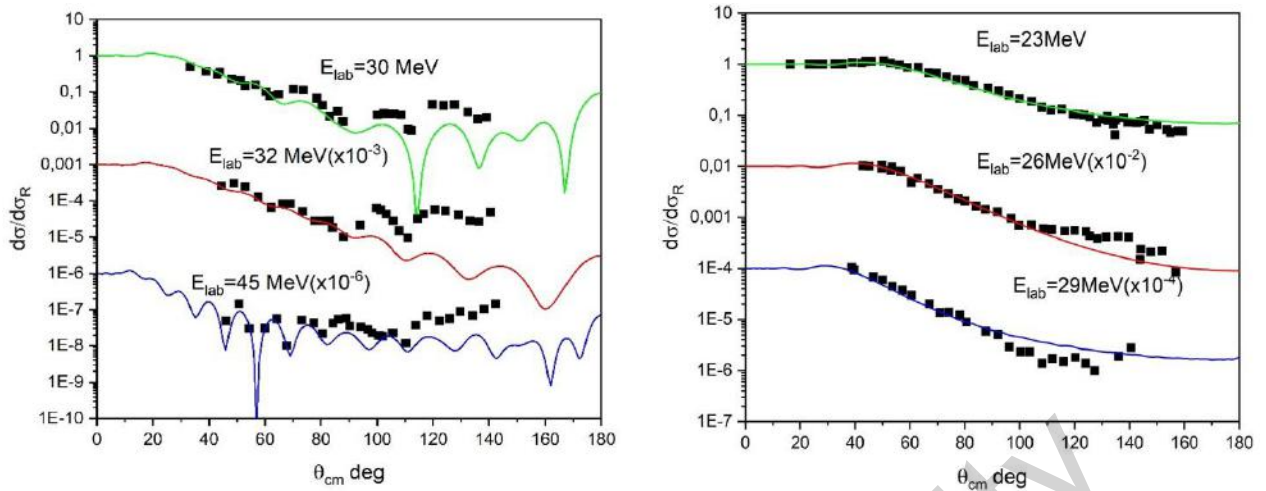


Fig.2. DF cross-sections for $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ (left) and $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ (right) nuclear systems

3. CRC analysis of $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$, $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$

The figures 3,4 demonstrate a significant increase in differential cross sections at backward angles, likely attributed to particle transfer processes. Such phenomena, involving the transfer of protons, deuterons, or alpha particles, have been extensively studied in previous works [26–29].

To accurately describe experimental data over the full angular range, the Coupled Reaction Channel (CRC) method is commonly employed. This approach extends the coupled channel framework to include nuclear rearrangement or transfer reactions, where one or more nucleons or composite particles (α , d particles) are transferred between the projectile and target nuclei. In this scenario, a composite projectile nucleus $A=(a+x)$ interacts with a target nucleus b , transferring the particle x to form the final system $B=(b+x)$. The nuclei a and b are referred to as cores. To compute the necessary wave functions, two critical parameters are needed: the number of nodes (N) in the radial wave function and the spectroscopic amplitudes (SA), which describe the decomposition of A and B into their constituent components $a+x$ and $b+x$, respectively.

The Talmi-Moshinski transformation [30, 31] was employed to determine the quantum numbers of the cluster state, using the following formula:

$$2(N-1)+L = \sum_{i=1}^n 2(n_i-1)+l_i, \quad (12)$$

where N is the number of nodes of the radial wave function of relative motion (taking into account the node at $r=0$) and L is the corresponding orbital momentum of the cluster, n_i , l_i are quantum numbers of components of a cluster of nucleons in harmonic oscillator model, Σ denotes the sums of similar quantities for nucleons entering a cluster in a bound state.

The differential cross section is the square of the sum of amplitudes from the pure elastic scattering and the exchange mechanism of the cluster transfer, as follows [8]:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left| f_{el}(\theta) + e^{i\alpha} S f_{tr}(\pi-\theta) \right|^2, \quad (13)$$

here $f_{el}(\theta)$ is the elastic scattering amplitude, f_{tr} is the transfer amplitude calculated using the distorted wave method with the replacement $\theta = \pi - \theta$, S is the product of the two spectroscopic amplitudes (SA), parameter $\alpha = pi$ (coherence of amplitudes).

Experimental data for the $^{15}\text{N}+^{13}\text{C}$ system are analyzed at energies $E_{lab} = 30.0, 32.0, 45$ MeV and for $^{15}\text{N}+^{19}\text{F}$ are analyzed at energies $E_{lab} = 23.0, 26.0, 29.0$ MeV in the framework of CRC. The cluster quantum numbers for the overlap used in CRC calculations are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Cluster quantum number for the overlaps for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ and $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ systems used in our calculations.

Overlap	N	L	S	J=L+S	Binding Energy (MeV)
$\langle ^{13}\text{C} + d ^{13}\text{C} \rangle$	3	2	1	1	16.16
$\langle ^{15}\text{N} + \alpha ^{15}\text{N} \rangle$	2	1	0	1	4.01

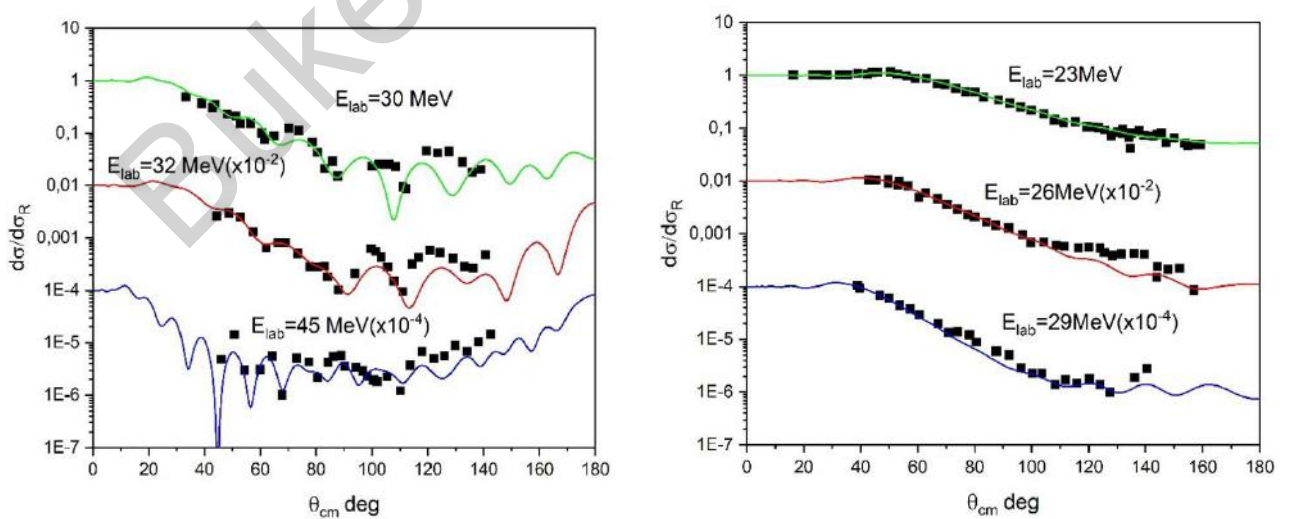
The OM potentials presented in Table 2 were also used in the study of the elastic transfer of d for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ system and α cluster transfer in the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ scattering. These calculations were performed using only one adjustable parameter SA (for the $^{15}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C} + d$ -configuration and $^{19}\text{F} \rightarrow ^{15}\text{N} + \alpha$ -configuration). Parameter SA is shown in Table 4 for each nuclear system.

Table 4. Data of SA parameters for each nuclear system.

E_{lab} MeV	SA	χ^2/N up to 180°
$^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$		
30	0.35 ± 0.001	7.95 ± 0.01
32	0.3 ± 0.006	16.05 ± 0.001
45	0.35 ± 0.004	20.8 ± 0.2
$^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$		
23	0.3 ± 0.008	1.85 ± 0.01
26	0.3 ± 0.006	7.84 ± 0.3
29	0.3 ± 0.004	4.45 ± 0.2

The extracted average SA values for $^{15}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C} + d$, $^{19}\text{F} \rightarrow ^{15}\text{N} + \alpha$ -configuration are 0.33 and 0.3. As shown in Figure 3 the agreement between the experimental data at large angles and the CRC calculations, which took into account the mechanism of the transfer of the d - cluster transfer in the $^{13}\text{C}(^{15}\text{N}, ^{13}\text{C})^{15}\text{N}$ reaction and α - cluster transfer in the $^{19}\text{F}(^{15}\text{N}, ^{19}\text{F})^{15}\text{N}$ reaction is quite good.

The values of SA we derived for the above systems are in good agreement with the data from the publications of Rudchik et al [31] and [13]. In the present work, the energy dependencies are found for the real and imaginary parts of the potential (figure 4). For the potential set, energy dependencies are described by the linear functions $V = 147.09 - 0.499E$ and $W = -8.59 + 0.66E$ for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ and $V = 88.85 - 0.22E$ and $W = 22.92 + 0.41E$ for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ scattering system.

**Fig.3.** CRC cross-sections for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ (left) and $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ (right)

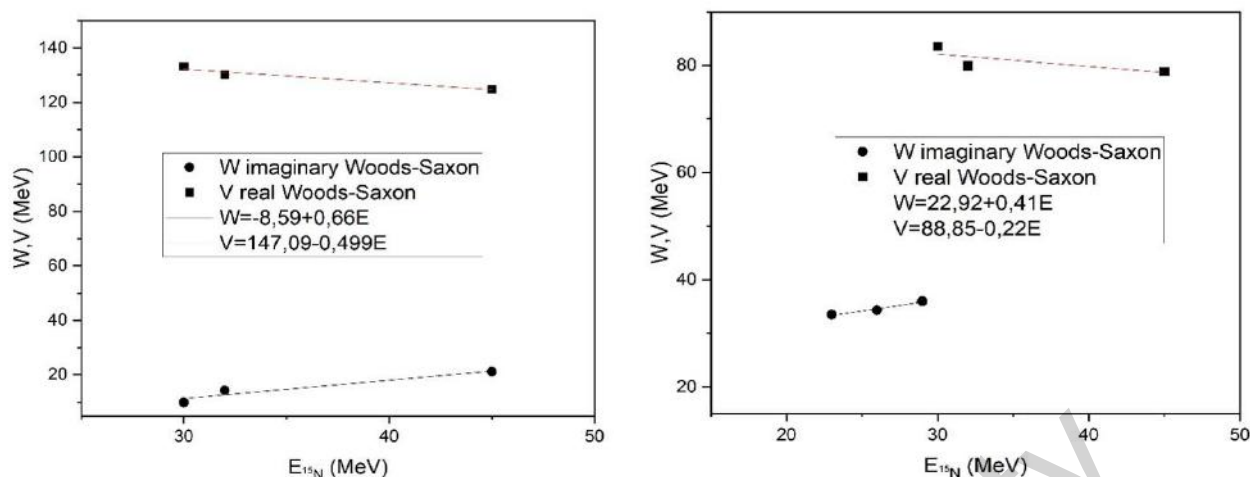


Fig.4. Energy dependence of $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ (left) and $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ (right)

4. Conclusion

New information on the parameters of optical potentials and reaction cross sections was obtained from the analysis of experimental data on the angular distributions of elastic scattering for the $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ and $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ systems. The energy dependences of the real and imaginary components of the nuclear potential depth were determined. A more physically meaningful set of optical potential parameters was also obtained by employing the DF model and the CRC.

Within the semi-microscopic framework, a folding potential based on the CDM3Y1-Reid interaction was constructed using the double-folding (DF) model. The phenomenological analysis revealed relative errors ranging from 0.17 to 1.6 for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ and from 3.7 to 17.6 for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ when comparing experimental and theoretical cross-sections. In the semi-microscopic analysis, the renormalization coefficients (N_r) of the microscopic potentials were determined to be 0.8–0.817 for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ and 0.92–1.21 for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$. To fully describe the experimental data across the entire angular range, calculations were conducted using the Coupled Reaction Channel (CRC) method implemented in the FRESKO program. This approach incorporated elastic scattering, modeled using the optical model (OM), and the exchange mechanism, which accounted for cluster transfer—an α -cluster for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{19}\text{F}$ and a d-cluster for $^{15}\text{N} + ^{13}\text{C}$ —calculated with the distorted wave method.

As a result of this analysis, spectroscopic amplitude (SA) values were determined for the configurations $^{19}\text{F} \rightarrow ^{15}\text{N} + \alpha$ (average SA=0.3) and $^{15}\text{N} \rightarrow ^{13}\text{C} + d$ (average SA=0.33). These SA values show strong consistency with data reported by other researchers, underscoring the reliability of the findings.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest in relation to this research, whether financial, personal, authorship or otherwise, that could affect the research and its results presented in this paper.

CRedit author statement

Akhat R. - conceptualization, methodology, investigation; **Amangeldi N.** - supervision, project administration; **Baratova A.** - writing-original draft, writing-review, editing; **Anuar A.** - visualization; **Raiymbekov Ye.** - software, investigation; **Yergaliuly G.** - conceptualization, formal analysis.

Acknowledgements

This work was carried out by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Grant No. AP19680284).

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