

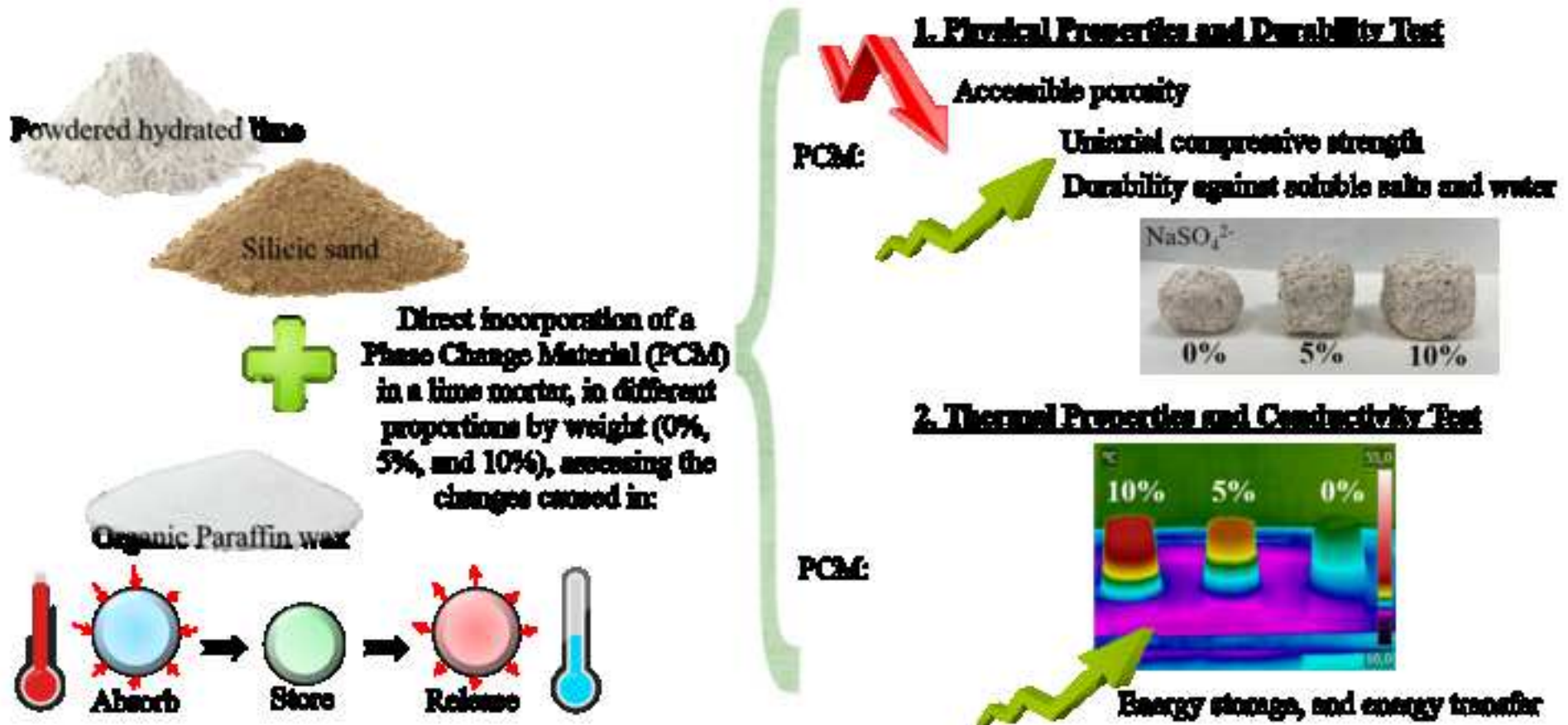
Construction and Building Materials

Effects of paraffin additives, as phase change materials, on the behavior of a traditional lime mortar --Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	This study refers to the inclusion of phase change materials (PCMs) in porous building materials as an alternative means of improving their thermal behavior, assessing the changes caused in their physical-mechanical and durability properties. Specifically, an organic paraffin wax was selected for direct incorporation into lime mortars using different concentrations by weight. The results show that PCMs improve the thermal properties of the mortar while reducing its accessible porosity. This increases the mortars' resistance to water and soluble salts. However, excessive PCM content causes stresses within the mortar that can jeopardize its structure.
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- Direct incorporation of an organic PCM in lime mortar was used
- PCM reduces accessible porosity and increases mechanical strength
- PCM improves mortar durability against water and soluble salts
- PCM improves the thermal properties of the mortar.
- Excessive PCM content has a negative effect on the mortar structure.

The buildings sector has accounted for almost 35% of total global energy consumption for this reason a significant improvement in the energy efficiency of the sector is crucial.



CRedit authorship contribution statement

J. Feijoo: Conceptualization, Methodology, Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing - original draft, Supervision, Visualization, Funding acquisition. **M.A. Alvarez-Feijoo:** Conceptualization, Resources, Investigation, Writing - original draft, Supervision. **R. Fort:** Formal analysis, Writing - Review & Editing, Funding acquisition. **E. Arce:** Formal analysis, Writing - Review & Editing. **D. Ergenç:** Formal analysis, Writing - Review & Editing.

1 **Effects of paraffin additives, as phase change materials, on the behavior of a**
2 **traditional lime mortar**

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24 **Abstract:**

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25 34 **Keywords:** phase change material; lime mortar; durability; physical properties; heat flux
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31 36 **1. Introduction**

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34 37 The buildings sector has accounted for almost 35% of total global energy consumption
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37 38 and 38% of total global energy-related CO₂ emissions since 2018 [1]. Furthermore,
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39 39 buildings' electricity consumption represents nearly 55% of the global total. This sector
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42 40 cannot be oblivious to climate change, one of the great challenges facing society today,
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44 41 since it makes a huge contribution to global energy consumption and greenhouse gas
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46 42 emissions. To achieve a net-zero-carbon building stock by 2050, the International Energy
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49 43 Agency estimates that both direct building CO₂ emissions and buildings' energy
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52 44 consumption must decline by 50% [2]. A significant improvement in the energy
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54 45 efficiency of the sector is therefore crucial, especially as regards increasing buildings'
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56 46 thermal efficiency to reduce heating and cooling needs.
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This improvement in modern buildings' thermal efficiency, achieved, among other solutions, by installing ventilated facades or facades with external thermal insulation systems (SATE), is not considered a technical challenge today [3]. However, in buildings catalogued as cultural heritage, improving thermal efficiency is more challenging due to the impossibility, on either technical, legal, or esthetic grounds, of increasing the thickness of the facades.

One of the principal ways of decreasing indoor climate control requirements in recent years has been to include phase change materials (PCMs) in the construction materials. These materials have a high latent heat storage capacity, allowing them to store more energy than typical building materials [4]. They undergo a melting process, absorbing part of the solar heat (via an endothermic process during the phase change from solid to liquid) before subsequently releasing it into the environment when the outdoor or indoor temperature falls and the PCM solidifies (via an exothermic process during the phase change from liquid to solid) [5,6].

The wide variety of PCMs can be sorted into three main groups: inorganic, organic and eutectic materials [7,8]. Each of them has a series of advantages and disadvantages that will influence their final application [9,10].

Among the inorganic substances, hydrated salts are the most important because of their greater volumetric storage density ($\approx 350 \text{ MJ/m}^3$) and relatively greater thermal conductivity ($\approx 0.5 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$) than organic materials [9,11]. However, the volume changes that these substances can undergo [8], as well as the damage caused by the more soluble salts—due to the pressures they exert on the pore-walls of a material when subjected to periodic crystallization/dissolution cycles [12,13]—discourage their use in certain applications, such as direct application in ornamental rocks. In fact, one of the greatest

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71 and most difficult-to-solve forms of damage to building materials is the physical damage
72 caused by soluble salts (such as sodium chloride or sodium sulfate) [14,15].

73 Organic PCMs, however, do not cause as high stresses as hydrated salts, as with organic
74 consolidating and water-repellent compounds they can modify the pore structure of the
75 material and accordingly modify other properties such as vapor permeability [16]. These
76 changes may cause the treated material to become more prone to future damage since
77 blockage of superficial pores can hinder water evaporation, tending to cause the salts that
78 remain in the stone to precipitate below the treated surface [17].

79 In short, before applying this type of material to building materials, either by
80 impregnating surfaces [18], encapsulation [19,20], absorption by immersion or by
81 capillarity [21], direct incorporation into the porous materials as additives [22,23], or even
82 by electroprecipitation techniques [24,25], a thorough study must be carried out to
83 analyze the influence of the PCMs used on the materials' behavior, especially in
84 properties related to the pore structure of the material. Consideration must be given to the
85 fact that building materials, once put into service, are subject to the combined action of
86 various deterioration agents, such as water or soluble salts. These agents can trigger both
87 physical and chemical alterations that can jeopardize the durability of the construction if
88 the correct treatment is not selected.

89 In the particular case of inclusion of PCMs as additives in mortars, the results obtained
90 vary widely, thus demonstrating the influence that parameters such as the type of PCM
91 used, the type of binder, the method of addition, and the dosages used in the mixture,
92 among others, have on the final behavior of the mortar.

93 Lucas, Ferreira and Barroso de Aguiar [26] studied how the addition of
94 microencapsulated paraffin as a PCM (Micronal DS 5008) influenced the mechanical
95 behavior of mortars made of different binders. This study found that the incorporation of

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96 PCMs in lime and lime-cement mortars resulted in an increase in their mechanical
97 properties—with these increasing as the PCM dosage rose—since it caused a reduction
98 in macroporosity. However, in cement mortars the effect was the opposite even though
99 the changes in the pore structure of the untreated mortar were similar when a PCM was
100 added.

101 Ventola, Vendrell and Giraldez [27] assessed the mechanical behavior of a lime mortar
102 with different dosages of a microencapsulated PCM (Micronal DS 5001) and found that
103 its addition increased uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) due to the increase in the
104 porosity and pore size of the mortar, thereby favoring a higher degree of carbonation.

105 Kulkarni and Muthadhi [23] assessed the direct incorporation of different PCMs, both
106 inorganic and organic, in a cement mortar, finding that incorporating inorganic PCMs
107 reduced UCS by less than incorporating organic PCMs.

108 Lecompte *et al.* [28] analyzed how incorporation of a microencapsulated paraffin as a
109 PCM (n-octadecane, C₁₈H₃₈) influenced the properties of concrete and cement mortars
110 and found that the presence of this PCM reduced the UCS since the microcapsules
111 behaved more like voids (with no significant effect on tensile strength) than common
112 aggregates.

113 In a study published in 2014, Cunha [29] shows the influence of two different PCMs on
114 the physical properties of lime-gypsum mortars, demonstrating that the characteristics
115 given to the mortar differ depending on the polymer of the microcapsules. In studies
116 conducted in 2015 [30] and 2016 [31], Cunha found that the addition of PCM
117 microcapsules decreased the mechanical strength of different mortar types made with
118 different binders (such as cement, gypsum, and hydraulic lime) due to the higher water
119 content and, consequently, the higher porosity compared to the reference mortar. In a
120 recent paper (published in 2020 [32]), Cunha found that although the direct addition of a

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121 PCM reduced the capillary absorption capacity and increased the density of a cement
122 mortar, the UCS was reduced at PCM contents higher than 10%, probably because PCMs
123 were incorporated into the mixture in a liquid state, a parameter that affects porosity.

124 Cunha points out that the cost of construction materials dosed with encapsulated PCMs
125 is almost seven times higher than that of non-encapsulated PCMs [32,33]. For this reason,
126 and even though most published studies focus on the incorporation of encapsulated PCMs
127 into construction materials, it is important to reduce the cost of incorporation in order to
128 improve the applicability of this technology. Consequently, studies focusing on direct
129 incorporation techniques, which remain an underdeveloped subject, are required.

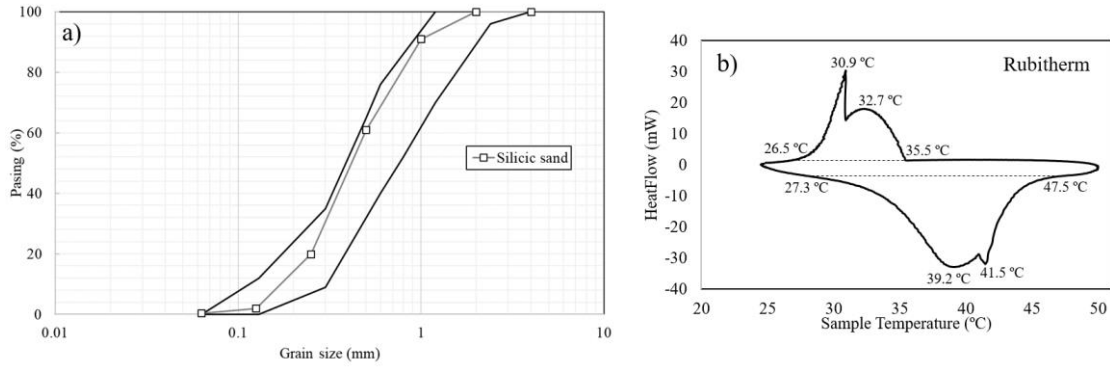
130 The aim of this study is to analyze in detail the influence of direct incorporation of an
131 organic paraffinic PCM on the physical-mechanical and thermal properties of a lime
132 mortar. Although this mortar type, widely used in restoration of cultural heritage, is not
133 as well studied as cement mortar, in recent years it has come back into use because it is
134 more compatible (since, among other advantages, it is less rigid and does not contribute
135 soluble salts to adjacent materials such as calcium sulfates and sodium salts [34,35]).

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137 **2. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

138 **2.1. Mortar: materials and preparation**

139 Powdered hydrated lime (CL-90-S [92% Ca(OH)₂ and less than 5% MgO], provided by
140 Calcinor) compliant with the UNE-EN 459-1 standard [36] and with a bulk density of
141 640 kg/m³ was used as binder. Silicic sand (90% SiO₂), with the granulometric
142 distribution curve shown in Figure 1 and with a bulk density of 1620 kg/m³, was used as
143 aggregate. This aggregate meets the ASTM C-144 standard [37].



144

145 **Figure 1.** The graph on the left shows the grain size distribution of the aggregate used
 146 (the limits established by ASTM C-144 [37] are indicated by black lines). On the right is
 147 the differential scanning calorimetry of the PCM used, Rubitherm RT 35 HC (n = 3).

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149 Rubitherm PCM RT 35 HC was used as additive. According to the manufacturer's data
 150 sheet, the properties of this organic paraffin wax are as follows: melting point 35 °C,
 151 density 880/770 kg/m³ (solid/liquid respectively), specific heat capacity 2 kJ/kg·K,
 152 volumetric heat capacity 1760 kJ/m³·K, latent heat of fusion 240 kJ/kg, and volumetric
 153 latent heat capacity 211 MJ/m³. This PCM was chosen because it is a non-corrosive and
 154 chemically inert material with low thermal conductivity (0.2 W/m·K, for both phases),
 155 which favors its use as an insulating material. Before applying the PCM, this was
 156 characterized using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). The raw PCM was heated
 157 from 20 °C to 50 °C at a rate of 5 °C/min in an N₂ atmosphere. Measurements were taken
 158 in triplicate using powder samples. The curves show the existence of a wide double peak,
 159 due to the PCM's organic nature [38], in both the freezing and the melting phases (similar
 160 behavior to that observed in other organic PCMs such as n-Butyl Stearate and
 161 Polyethylene Glycol [23]). The freezing temperatures ranged between 26.5 and 35.5 °C,
 162 peaking at 30.9 °C (Figure 2), which differs slightly with the value stated on the
 163 manufacturer's data sheet, which lists 35 °C as the maximum temperature. This range is

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164 between 18 °C and 40 °C, which is considered the optimum PCM temperature range for
165 building applications [8]. The melting temperature is between 27.3 and 47.5 °C, peaking
166 at 39.2 °C, which again is slightly different to the value stated on the data sheet. The
167 results obtained using DSC analysis stated that RT35HC has a latent heat capacity
168 (enthalpy) of 240.7 ± 0.8 kJ/kg and 239.6 ± 2.3 kJ/kg at cooling and heating, respectively
169 (similar values to those indicated on the data sheet). A disadvantage of this PCM is its
170 high volumetric expansion during phase change (12%), which could affect the substrate
171 to which it is applied.

172 Three different lime mortars were assessed in this study: one, as a reference, with no
173 phase change material in its composition (named PCM0) and using a binder:aggregate
174 volume ratio of 1:3, which is the most common ratio cited in the literature [35]; and two
175 additives with differing PCM percentages: 5% and 10% by weight with respect to the
176 amount of binder (named PCM5 and PCM10, respectively).

177 The amount of water added to the mortar mixes was adjusted to give them adequate and
178 similar workability and consistency according to the slump test using the Abrams cone
179 [39].

180 The water content in each mixture was measured following the gravimetric method. For
181 this purpose, three samples were taken for each type of fresh mortar. The samples were
182 weighed and placed in an oven at 50 °C for 3 days, after which they were removed and
183 reweighed. The water content (WC) was determined according to the following equation:

$$184 \quad WC (\%) = 100 \cdot (W_w - W_d) / W_w \quad (1)$$

185 where W_w is the weight of the wet mortar and W_d is the weight of the dry mortar.

186 Specifically, the amount of water added to each mixture, according to the gravimetric
187 method of analysis, was as follows: PCM0-15.8%, PCM5-16.0% and PCM10-16.1% of
188 total blend.

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190 **2.2. Mortar physical properties and durability test**

191 Each mortar blend was placed in a different plastic mold to obtain three different
192 geometries (cubic, cylindrical, and conical). The samples were demolded after 7 days and
193 left to cure under laboratory conditions for 28 days (RH 70% ± 23% and 20 ± 5 °C).

194 After this period of time, and using 10 cubic samples per mortar (5 cm each side, as per
195 the standards), water accessible porosity (UNE-EN 1936:2007 [40], Equation 2),
196 capillary absorption coefficient (UNE-EN 1925:1999 [41]), and capillary porosity, using
197 the expression shown in [42] (Equation 3), were determined. In all these cases, the mortar
198 samples were weighed at the different time intervals established by the standard, with the
199 initial state corresponding to dry weight before saturation in water, achieved by complete
200 immersion in water (in the case of the water absorption process to determine the
201 accessible porosity, Equation 2), or by partial immersion in the case of capillary porosity.

$$202 P_{\text{accessible to water}} (\%) = 100 \cdot (W_s - W_d) / (W_s - W_h) \quad (2)$$

203 where W_s is the weight of the sample when completely saturated in water after applying
204 vacuum, W_d is the dry weight of the sample, and W_h corresponds to the hydrostatic
205 weight.

$$206 P_{\text{capillary}} (\%) = 100 \cdot (W_a - W_d) / (V_s \cdot \rho) \quad (3)$$

207 where W_a is the weight of the sample saturated by capillary absorption, W_d is the dry
208 weight of the sample, V_s is the volume of the mortar sample used, and ρ is the density of
209 water.

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210 Mercury accessible porosity and pore size distribution were measured by mercury
211 intrusion porosimeter (MIP) using a Micromeritics Auto Pore IV 9500. This porosimeter
212 makes it possible to characterize a pore range with an access diameter of between 0.003
213 and 360 μm . Measurements were taken in duplicate using 1 x 1 x 2 cm samples extracted
214 from the core of the mortar samples. Based on the data obtained, the tortuosity of the
215 porous network (τ) was also determined using the expression taken from a previous study
216 [43] in which the total mercury injected by intrusion is compared with the mercury
217 content retained in the samples during the extrusion process.

$$218 \quad \tau = V_{\text{intrusion Hg}} / (V_{\text{intrusion Hg}} - V_{\text{extrusion Hg}}) \quad (4)$$

219 Also, the following properties were measured after 28 days of curing, using cubic
220 samples:

221 Ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV) was measured using a Pundit CNS Electronics
222 instrument fitted with transducers (1 MHz frequency and 11.82 mm diameter), the tips of
223 which were covered with conductive plastic to ensure robust coupling between the
224 transducers and the samples (previously dried to constant weight). Ten direct
225 measurements were taken in each orthogonal direction. The two highest and the two
226 lowest values were eliminated, taking the mean of the remaining six as the real value.

227 From these data, the anisotropy index proposed by Guyader [44] was obtained.

$$228 \quad dM(\%) = [1 - (2V_{\text{pmin}} / (V_{\text{pmean}} + V_{\text{pmax}}))] \cdot 100 \quad (5)$$

229 where V_{pmin} , V_{pmean} , and V_{pmax} correspond to the lowest, intermediate, and highest
230 velocity values, respectively.

231 The mechanical robustness of the mortar was assessed using the drilling resistance
232 measurement system (DRMS, Sint Technology). Single holes were made in two mortar
233 samples per mortar type (without and with PCM), setting maximum total penetration

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234 depth at 20 mm. Drill bits with a 3 mm diameter were employed at a rotation speed of
235 100 rpm and a penetration rate of 10 mm/min (conditions suitable for materials expected
236 to have low resistance [45]).

237 The mortars' surface hardness was evaluated with the Equotip rebound tester (following
238 ASTM D 5873 [46]) using an Equotip3 (Proceq) with a D-type impactor. Twelve
239 downward measurements perpendicular to the surface of the dried mortar samples were
240 taken (n = 10 per mortar type). The Equotip hardness value (Ls) was also used to predict
241 the UCS using the expression proposed by Aoki and Matsukura [47].

$$242 \text{ UCS (MPa)} = 0.079e^{-0.039 \cdot n} \cdot L_s^{1.1} \quad (6)$$

243 where n is the accessible porosity to water (in %) and Ls the Equotip hardness value.

244 The durability index of the three types of mortar was calculated using two mathematical
245 estimators: the DDE proposed by Ordoñez [48], and the PDE_c proposed by Benavente
246 [49]. Both estimators provide an idea of the durability of the material to the pressures
247 exerted by salt crystallization and freeze–thaw cycles. The DDE estimator, which
248 considers only the porous structure of the material, was calculated using the following
249 expression:

$$250 \text{ DDE } (\mu\text{m}^{-1}) = \Sigma(D_v(r_i)/r_i)P_a \quad (7)$$

251 where D_v is the pore size distribution for each pore r_i (in parts per unit); r_i the pore size
252 in μm; and P_a the accessible porosity to water in parts per unit.

253 The PDE_c estimator, which improves on the previous one since it not only considers the
254 porous structure of the material but also considers its mechanical strength, was
255 determined by means of the following equation:

$$256 \text{ PDE}_c \text{ (m/kg)} = 10 \text{ DDE/UCS} \quad (8)$$

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257 In both cases, the higher the value of each mathematical estimator, the lower the durability
258 exhibited by the material.

259 Microstructure, morphology and chemical composition were studied by environmental
260 scanning electron microscopy (ESEM) and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX)
261 using an FEI ESEM Quanta 200 microscope equipped with an EDAX EDX detector.
262 Elements from polished sections were spatially distributed to obtain EDX elemental
263 mapping images for each mortar. In addition, the images were processed with ImageJ
264 software to highlight the intra-particle porosity.

265 Once the mortar samples' hardness had increased after 60 days of curing under laboratory
266 conditions, the mortars' carbonation degree and durability were evaluated against
267 different alteration agents.

268 Carbonation degree was determined using a thermogravimetry-differential scanning
269 calorimeter (TG-DSC, Labys Evo 1180). For this purpose, two conical samples of each
270 mortar type (height 9 cm, bottom and top diameters 6.3 cm and 4.3 cm, respectively) were
271 divided along their longitudinal profile by means of hammer and chisel. On the exposed
272 surfaces, the material was scraped and then ground, sieved, and dried before measuring.
273 The measurements were taken in an N₂ atmosphere, heating the samples from 30 to
274 900 °C using a heating ramp of 10 °C/min. Carbonation degree was calculated from the
275 relation between portlandite (Ca(OH)₂) depletion and, especially, calcite (CaCO₃)
276 formation [33,50]). In addition, the carbonation degree was evaluated qualitatively by
277 dyeing the longitudinal sections of the conical mortar samples—which had been divided
278 in half—with phenolphthalein (C₂₀H₁₄O₄) to measure the carbonation depth.

279 Resistance to thermal cycles (UNE-EN 16140:2019 [51]) was determined in order to
280 analyze whether continuous changes in the phase of the PCM within the mortar, as well
281 as the different thermal expansion coefficients between the PCM and the lime mortar, can

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282 cause internal stresses that trigger the appearance of fractures or loss of material. Each
283 cycle consisted of oven-drying at 75 °C for 18 h, followed by total immersion in ultrapure
284 water at 20 °C for 6 h. A total of 20 cycles were performed, using 3 cylindrical samples
285 per mortar type (diameter 5.7 cm, height 12.2 cm). Every 3 cycles the samples were dried
286 to constant weight to analyze the weight loss during the test.

287 Frost resistance (UNE-EN 12371:2011 [52]) was determined by evaluating the behavior
288 of the mortar against freeze–thaw weathering processes exerted by water when it freezes
289 and expands in volume. Each cycle consisted of 2 h of vacuum saturation with ultrapure
290 water (conductivity of 0.054 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) to avoid the influence of the salts on the alteration
291 process, freezing at -25 °C for 8 h, and defrosting in water at room temperature for 6 h
292 (25 ± 2 °C). A total of 10 cycles were performed using 5 conical samples per mortar type
293 (similar dimensions to those mentioned above). Every 2 cycles the samples were dried to
294 constant weight and their weights were recorded.

295 Resistance to salt crystallization cycles (following the RILEM procedure [53] modified
296 according to [54]) was determined using three different salts (single salts such as NaCl
297 20 w/w%, Na_2SO_4 14 w/w%, and a salt mixture: seawater) and 5 cubic samples (5 cm per
298 side) per mortar type. Each cycle consisted of 2 h in total immersion in the corresponding
299 saline solution, 4 h in an oven at 40 °C, and drying at 20 °C and RH 80% for 18 h. Every
300 5 cycles, the samples were desalinated by immersion in water for one week. After this
301 process, the samples were dried until constant weight was reached.

302 The reason for selecting these salts was as follows: NaCl is a very common salt present
303 in buildings, especially those located in coastal areas [55]. This salt, which has a high
304 solubility and only has one stable phase, is mainly responsible for surface alteration
305 processes such as sanding [56]. Na_2SO_4 is considered to be one of the most dangerous
306 salts for building stone, causing the loss of material through superficial detachment [57].

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307 The damage caused by this salt is attributed to both crystallization pressure and hydration
308 pressure as its volume increases by 300% when it changes state from thenardite (Na_2SO_4 ,
309 anhydrous) to mirabilite ($\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$, decahydrated) [58]. Seawater was used to
310 approximate the analyses to a real-world situation, since it is more common to find
311 buildings affected by a combination of salts than by a single one [14,59,60]. The ionic
312 composition (in % w/w) of the seawater used was as follows: Cl^- (1.94), SO_4^{2-} (0.27),
313 Na^+ (1.1), Mg^{2+} (0.13), Ca^{2+} (0.04), K^+ (0.04). The seawater was similar to that used in
314 [61].
315 Resistance to or durability against these alteration agents was measured as weight loss
316 during the test. In addition, the degree of alteration was visually monitored.

317 318 **2.3. Mortar thermal properties and conductivity test**

319 Heat storage capacity and long-term stability were analyzed to determine both the heat
320 storage capacity at fixed temperature intervals and the number of cycles that PCMs can
321 withstand without suffering degradation of their properties. For this purpose, a TG-DSC
322 was used to assess the change in behavior of the samples when subjected to a programmed
323 temperature cycle in a controlled atmosphere ($\text{N}_{2(\text{g})}$). Each cycle commenced by heating
324 the sample from 20 °C to 50 °C using a heating ramp of 2 °C/min. Once this temperature
325 was reached, it was maintained for 15 min to stabilize the sample temperature before
326 returning it to 20 °C, cooling it at 2 °C/min. The samples were left at this temperature for
327 15 min to stabilize before starting the next cycle. A total of 80 cycles were performed per
328 mortar type (i.e., PCM0, PCM5, and PCM10), conducting the analysis in duplicate.

329 Thermal conductivity under various conditions:

- 330 • Cold conductivity test. Three conical samples (height 9 cm, bottom and top
331 diameters 6.3 cm and 4.3 cm, respectively) per mortar type were heated to 60 °C

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332 in an oven. They were then partially immersed in water (previously cooled to
333 12 °C and 1 cm deep). Every 10 minutes, the temperature of the samples was
334 recorded using a Flir E85 thermographic camera with an emissivity of 0.94
335 (recommended value for mortar- and limestone-type materials [62]), taking the
336 corresponding photograph. The FlirTools+ software was used to determine both
337 the temperature value at two predefined heights (2 cm and 5 cm from the base of
338 the samples) and the immersion bath temperature.

- 339 • Hot conductivity test. In this case, other 3 conical samples per mortar, with the
340 same dimensions as those of the previous test, were used. The samples were
341 previously cooled in a freezer until they reached -17 °C. They were then partially
342 immersed in water (at 35 °C and 1 cm deep). During the test, and at the same time
343 intervals as in the previous test, the temperature was recorded, and the data were
344 processed with the Flir E85 camera and its corresponding software.

345 **3. Results and Discussion**

346 **3.1. Physical-mechanical properties**

347 Table 1 shows the data on the main physical properties of the three mortars assessed in
348 this study. The data show that:

349 The addition of a PCM to lime mortar results in an alteration in the physical properties of
350 the mortar. The higher the PCM content in the mixture, the lower the accessible porosity
351 of the mortar, both to water and to mercury. These results do not concur with those
352 obtained in previous studies carried out on lime mortar [26,27], probably due to the fact
353 that in those studies a greater amount of water was added to the mortars containing a PCM
354 than in the reference mortar (this fact, as stated in previous studies, causes an increase in
355 porosity [63,64]), while in this study the amounts of water added were very similar.

356 However, this result is in agreement with those obtained in [32], where the addition of a
 357 PCM to cement mortar was performed in the same way as in this study.

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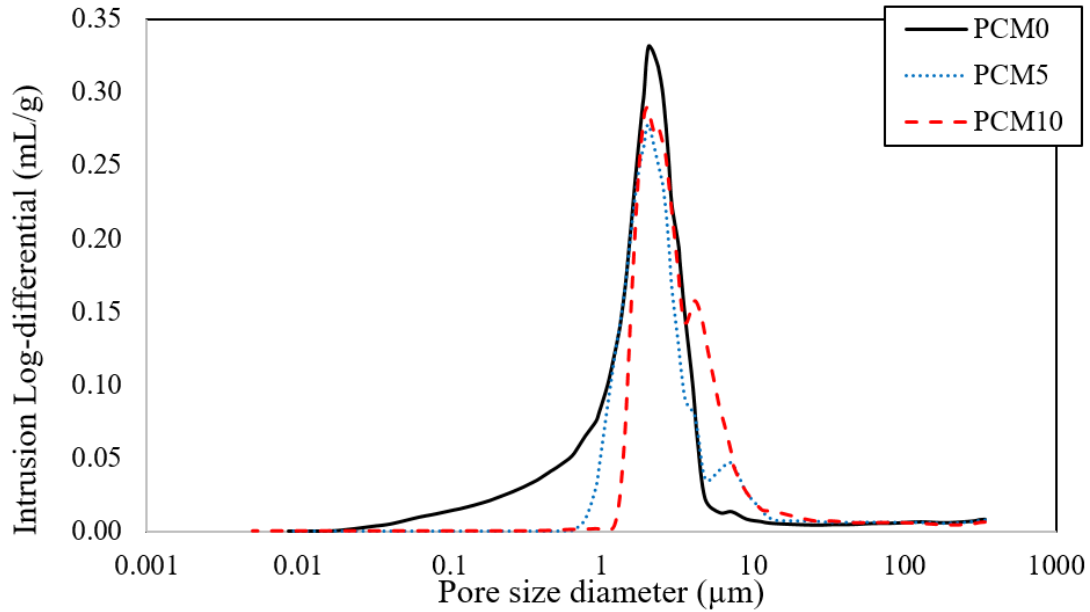
359 **Table 1.** Physical properties of the different mortars assessed, with and without PCM.

Parameters	PCM0	PCM5	PCM10
Water accessible porosity (% v/v)	37.06 ± 0.31	35.31 ± 0.16	33.97 ± 0.27
Mercury accessible porosity (% v/v)	30.10	22.93	21.84
Capillary porosity (% v/v)	28.28 ± 1.00	28.56 ± 0.22	28.06 ± 0.32
Capillary coefficient (kg/m ² s ^{0.5})	0.321 ± 0.016	0.321 ± 0.004	0.316 ± 0.004
Bulk density (kg/m ³)	1645 ± 8	1632 ± 6	1607 ± 8
Tortuosity	1.35	1.34	1.73
Ultrasonic pulse velocity (m/s)	1160 ± 23	1129 ± 1	1171 ± 0
dM (%)	3.50 ± 0.93	1.64 ± 0.85	1.17 ± 0.89
Surface hardness (Leeb, HLD)	201.72 ± 3.58	201.26 ± 2.72	211.63 ± 5.38
Uniaxial compressive strength (MPa)	6.39 ± 0.12	6.82 ± 0.10	7.59 ± 0.21
DDE (μm ⁻¹)	0.61	0.12	0.10
PDEc (m/kg)	0.95	0.17	0.14

360

361 Analyzing the pore size distribution (Figure 2), it was observed that the reduction in
 362 porosity is due to the filling of the smallest pores (under 1 μm) by the PCM, and to the
 363 partial occlusion of pores that, being found in the PCM0 mortar outside the detection
 364 range of the equipment (360 μm), appear at around 10 μm in the PCM-additivated
 365 mortars. This result is in agreement with those obtained in previous studies showing that
 366 the PCM produces a filling effect by reducing the porosity of the treated material [33,65].
 367 The same result can be seen in Table 2, which shows the intruded volume in each mortar
 368 type for different pore size ranges.

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370 **Figure 2.** Average pore size distribution ($n = 2$) of the mortar samples, without a PCM
 371 (black line) and with different PCM percentages: PCM5 (dotted blue line) and PCM10
 372 (dashed red line).

373 **Table 2.** Intruded mercury volumes for different pore size ranges (in %) for the three
 374 different mortars assessed: PCM0, PCM5 and PCM10.

375

Mortar	Mercury accessible porosity (% v/v)	Total intruded volume (%)				
		Pore size ranges (μm)				
		< 0.1	0.1–1	1–10	10–100	> 100
PCM0	30.10	2.51	19.21	73.75	2.69	1.84
PCM5	22.93	0.00	1.55	90.71	5.39	2.35
PCM10	21.84	0.00	0.30	92.13	5.77	1.80

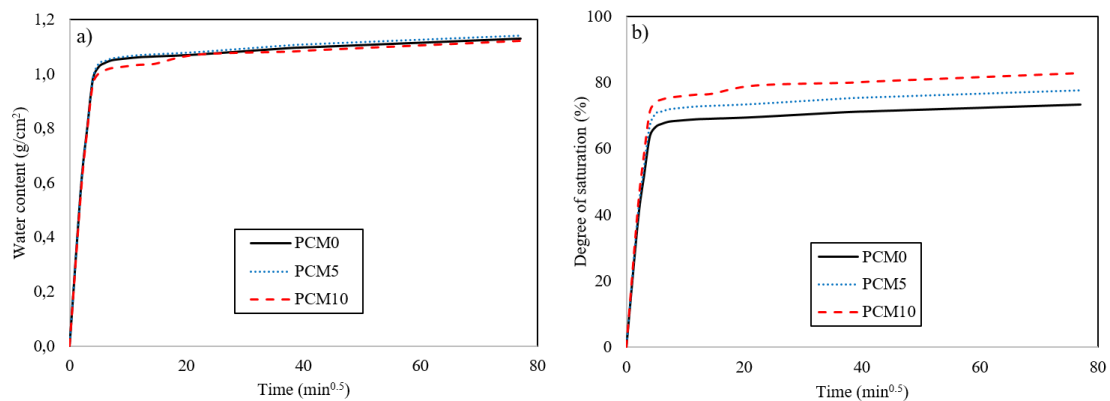
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377 This variation in porosity affects other properties, such as capillary suction capacity and
 378 pore network tortuosity. Capillary porosity and capillary coefficient barely changed in the
 379 mortar samples when the amount of PCM added was low (i.e., in PCM5; Table 1 and
 380 Figure 3a). However, when the amount of PCM added was high enough to occlude the
 381 pores measuring 0.1–1 μm (as happens in PCM10; Table 2), corresponding to the smallest
 382 range of pores with a capillary access size of 0.1–100 μm [66], a slight decrease occurred.

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383 However, it should be noted that the results obtained were not statistically very different,
384 considering the deviation of the measurements. What was really observed was the
385 influence exerted by the PCM on the degree of saturation of the samples by this absorption
386 mechanism (Figure 3b). As can be seen in Table 2, the pore volume in PCM mortars is
387 mainly concentrated in that family of pores with an access size of 1–10 μm . The fact that
388 they lack a lower accessible porosity and that most of the pores are within this range
389 means that the degree of saturation of the mortar samples via this entrance route will be
390 higher in mortars with a PCM, especially in the PCM10 mortar, which presents a degree
391 of saturation by capillarity of 83%.



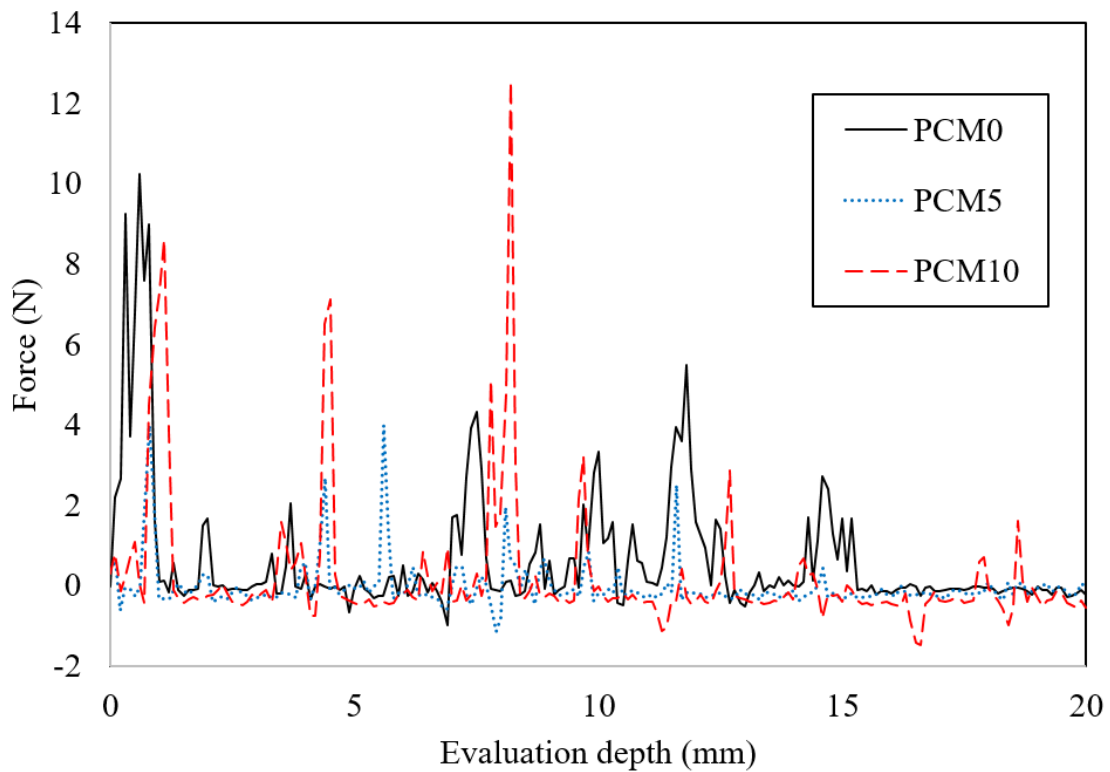
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393 **Figure 3.** Water content per surface area as a function of time (in minutes) during the
394 capillary absorption test (a). The degree of saturation (S%) absorbed by capillary suction
395 as a function of time is also shown (b).

396
397 Concerning tortuosity, the inclusion of particles that occlude the smallest pores and
398 partially fill the largest ones caused an increase in this property when the amount of PCM
399 added was high (PCM10). This could be counterproductive, since, as indicated in [25],
400 the greater tortuosity of the pore system hinders the transport of moisture during
401 desorption, maintaining a higher residual moisture content in the material for a longer
402 period of time.

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403 The ultrasound pulse velocity measurements showed a slight increase in the PCM10
404 mortars, probably due to the lower porosity, as occurs in [25]. However, for low PCM
405 concentrations (5%) this increase was not observed.

406 The anisotropy values detected were very low (less than 5%; Table 1), especially in the
407 PCM-additivated mortars, so from a mechanical point of view these mortars can be
408 considered, according to [67], isotropic materials.



409
410 **Figure 4.** Measurement of drilling resistance expressed as the force exerted by the drill
411 (in N) vs. evaluation depth in the cubic mortars (in mm), without and with PCM (n = 2).

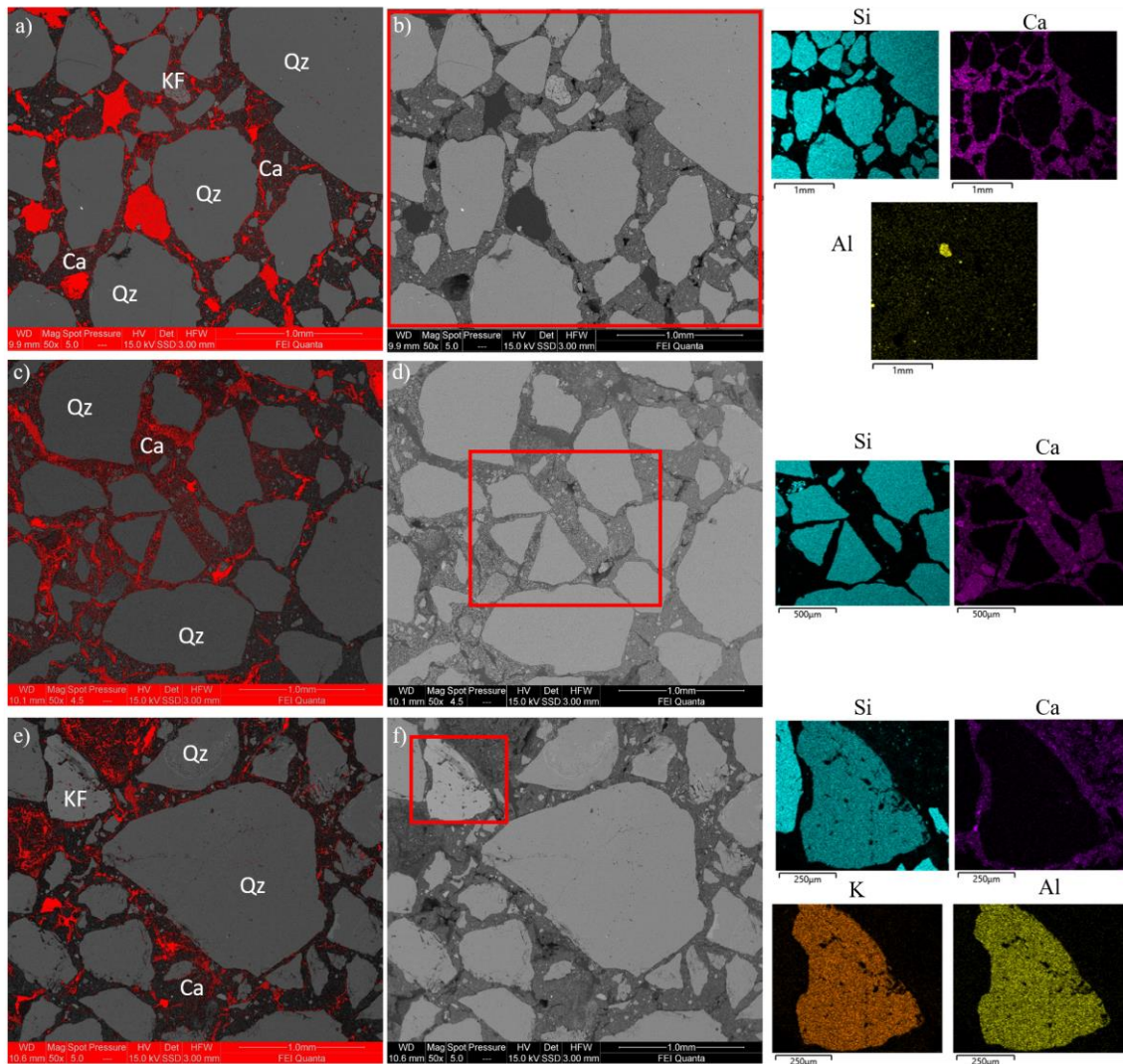
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413 Regarding drilling resistance, the PCM was not observed to cause a variation in the
414 resistance of the reference mortar (Figure 4). On average, the resistance exerted by each
415 of the three mortar types was very low and similar. Occasional peaks in strength were
416 observed, which may be attributable to quartz grains as they also appear in the mortar

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417 without PCM.

418 However, an increase was observed in the other two mechanical properties analyzed in
419 this study. The impact resistance obtained using the microhardness tester showed how the
420 addition of a high PCM content (in this case 10%) increased this property. Similarly, it
421 can be seen that the addition of the PCM produced a slight increase in the uniaxial
422 compressive strength of the reference mortar (increases of less than 2 MPa, which are
423 similar to those obtained in [27], which evaluated the use of lime mortars with a PCM).
424 The results show that the greater the PCM content added, the greater the UCS achieved.
425 This is attributed, as indicated above when analyzing the porous system, to the reduction
426 in the number of voids in the mortar section and in their size, which allows for greater
427 compaction of the mechanically useful skeleton (see Figure 5, where the pores are
428 highlighted in red). As occurs in other studies, a lower porosity causes an increase in UCS
429 [26,68–70]. SEM images and mapping also show that no changes in mortar composition
430 were observed.

431 The durability index against pressure exerted by water or soluble salts (i.e., DDE and
432 PDEc) indicates that after 28 days the durability of the mortars increased with the amount
433 of PCM content added to the mixture (Table 1). This fact is related to 1) the lower
434 accessible porosity, which hinders the entry of external alteration agents; 2) the lack of
435 small pores that are more prone to crystallization pressure, as stated in [71]; and 3) the
436 greater mechanical resistance of these mortars [49].



437

438 **Figure 5.** ESEM micrographs (cross-section) of the mortars assessed in BSE mode:
 439 PCM0 b), PCM5 d), and PCM10 f), and their corresponding EDX mapping. These
 440 micrographs and the EDX analyses show the typical mineral grains of the mortar
 441 composition: quartz grains (Qz) and potassium feldspar (KF) from the aggregate, and
 442 calcium carbonate (Ca) from the binder. In addition, the intergranular porosity details can
 443 be observed in the processed images: PCM0 a), PCM 5 c), and PCM10 e).

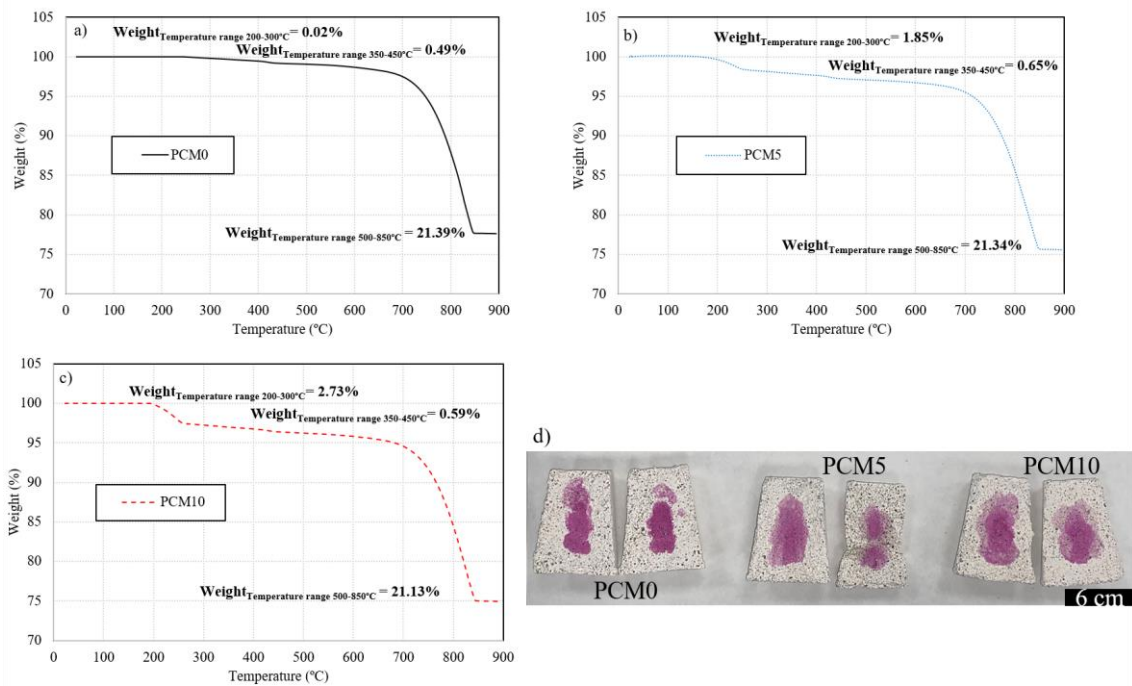
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445 Carbonation measurements taken at 60 days indicated that the degree of carbonation was
 446 reduced with the addition of the PCM (Figure 6), a similar result to that obtained in [33].
 447 This is evident from both thermogravimetric and phenolphthalein results. In the

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448 thermogravimetric analysis three weight-loss zones were observed: one between 200 and
449 300, which is associated with the flash point of the paraffinic PCM; other between 350
450 and 450 related to the dehydration of calcium hydroxide; and a final one between 500 and
451 850 related to the decomposition of calcium carbonate [72]. The results show that the
452 highest loss associated with calcium carbonate and the lowest loss associated with the
453 presence of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ occur in the PCM0 mortar. Meanwhile, the greatest loss associated
454 with the PCM occurs in the PCM10 mortar.



455
456 **Figure 6.** Thermograms corresponding to each of the mortars assessed (PCM0 [a], PCM5
457 [b], and PCM10 [c]), showing the average percentage weight loss ($n = 2$) at different
458 temperatures. A longitudinal section dyed with phenolphthalein to measure carbonation
459 depth is also shown (the uncarbonated areas are shown in pink).

460
461 The lower carbonation of the PCM10 samples—followed by the PCM5 samples and
462 found especially in the core of the samples (Figure 6d)—is related to the greater difficulty
463 the CO_2 encounters in flowing through the mortar matrix (an essential factor for

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464 carbonation to take place, as mentioned in [73]). As mentioned above, the PCM10 mortar
465 has a lower accessible porosity and a greater tortuosity than the other two mortars (Table
466 1). This lower degree of carbonation depth in the samples containing the PCM has a
467 negative influence on the UCS, as demonstrated in [74,75]. Therefore, if the degree of
468 carbonation depth were similar, the difference observed in the UCS between the PCM-
469 additivated mortar and the reference mortar would be much greater.

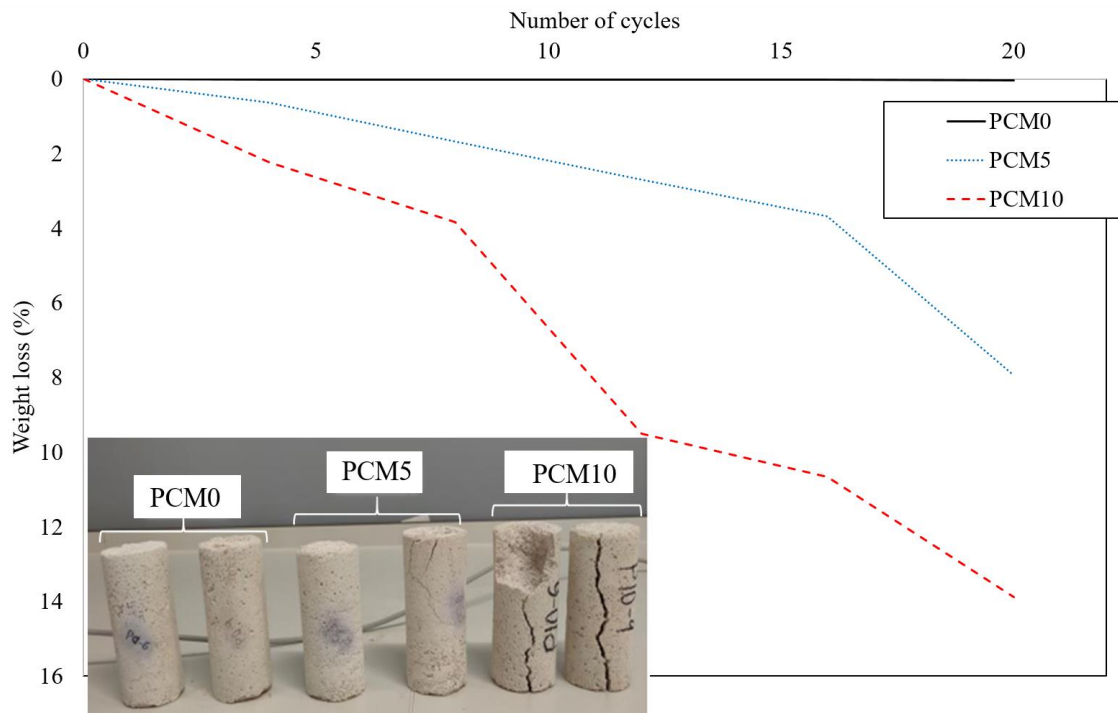
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471 **3.2. Resistance to external alteration agents**

472 Figure 7 shows the average weight loss for each mortar type measured during the thermal
473 cycles to which the samples were subjected. The obtained results showed that the highest
474 weight losses occurred in the PCM10 mortar (14% at 20 cycles). In this mortar type, the
475 development of small fractures, which would enlarge until reaching the size shown in the
476 attached photograph, began in cycle 12. The next mortar type with the highest loss was
477 the PCM5 mortar (around 8% at 20 cycles), which developed small fractures in the
478 corners of the samples. In the PCM0 mortar, neither weight loss nor fractures were
479 observed. The development of these fractures is related to the internal stresses generated
480 by the PCM within the mortar matrix due to mismatching of the coefficients of thermal
481 expansion between the two materials: lime mortar (the value of which is usually around
482 2.5%, as stated in [76]), and the selected PCM (RT 35 HC: 12%).

483 As shown in previous studies that analyze the damage caused by the different thermal
484 expansion coefficients between soluble salts [77] or PCMs [78] and the matrix of the
485 porous materials, the damage is greater 1) when the porous material presents a higher
486 concentration of these compounds (i.e., soluble salts or PCM content); and 2) when the
487 crystal practically fills the interior of the pore. Both facts are consistent with the results
488 obtained in this study, where it can be seen how the inclusion of a PCM tends to fill the

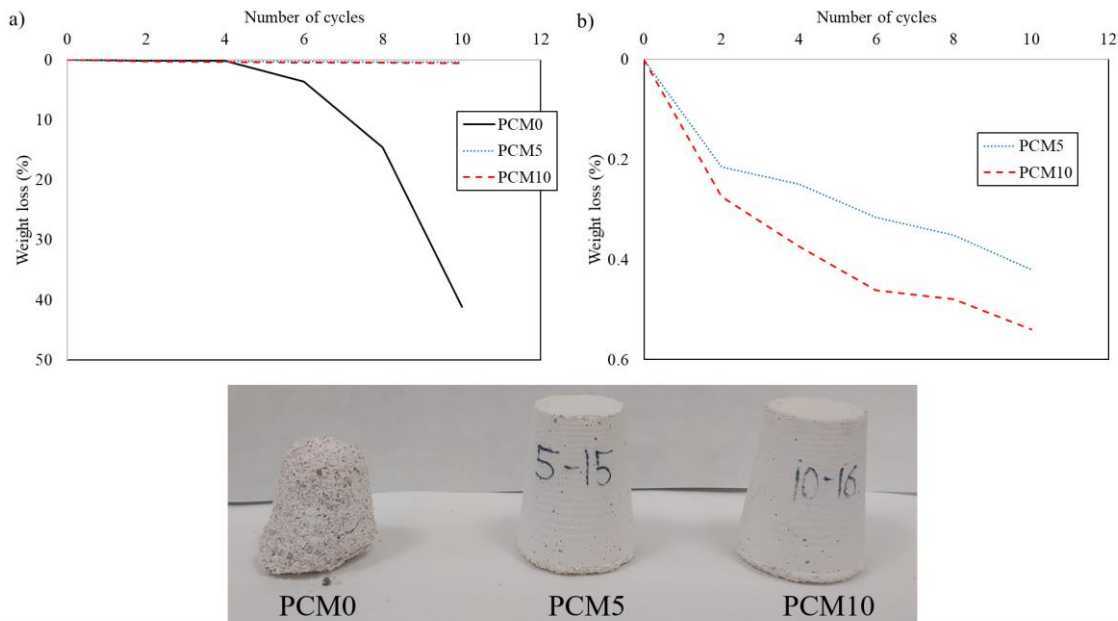
489 smaller pores (Figures 2 and 5) and that the damage is greater in the mortar with 10%
490 PCM content.



491
492 **Figure 7.** Average weight loss in % (n = 3) suffered by the mortars as a function of the
493 number of thermal cycles performed. In addition, the final state of some of the samples
494 used in the test is shown once the 20 cycles have been completed.

495
496 Regarding the resistance to freeze–thaw cycles (Figure 8), the result was the opposite of
497 the previous one. In this case, the greatest weight loss occurred in the reference mortar
498 (PCM0, 40% after 10 cycles, resulting in the loss of the mortar samples' shape) and was
499 lower in the mortars with PCM additives (less than 0.6%, regardless of the amount of
500 PCM added). Fractures in mortar PCM0 were observed from the 5th cycle onwards.
501 Summarizing, the absence of pores smaller than 1 μm , as occurs in PCM mortars, gives
502 the mortar a better capacity to absorb the expansive pressures generated by the increase
503 in volume that occurs when the water changes from liquid to solid state, as stated in [13].

504 In addition, this resistance is enhanced by the reduction in accessible porosity, which
505 means that less water can penetrate the mortar.



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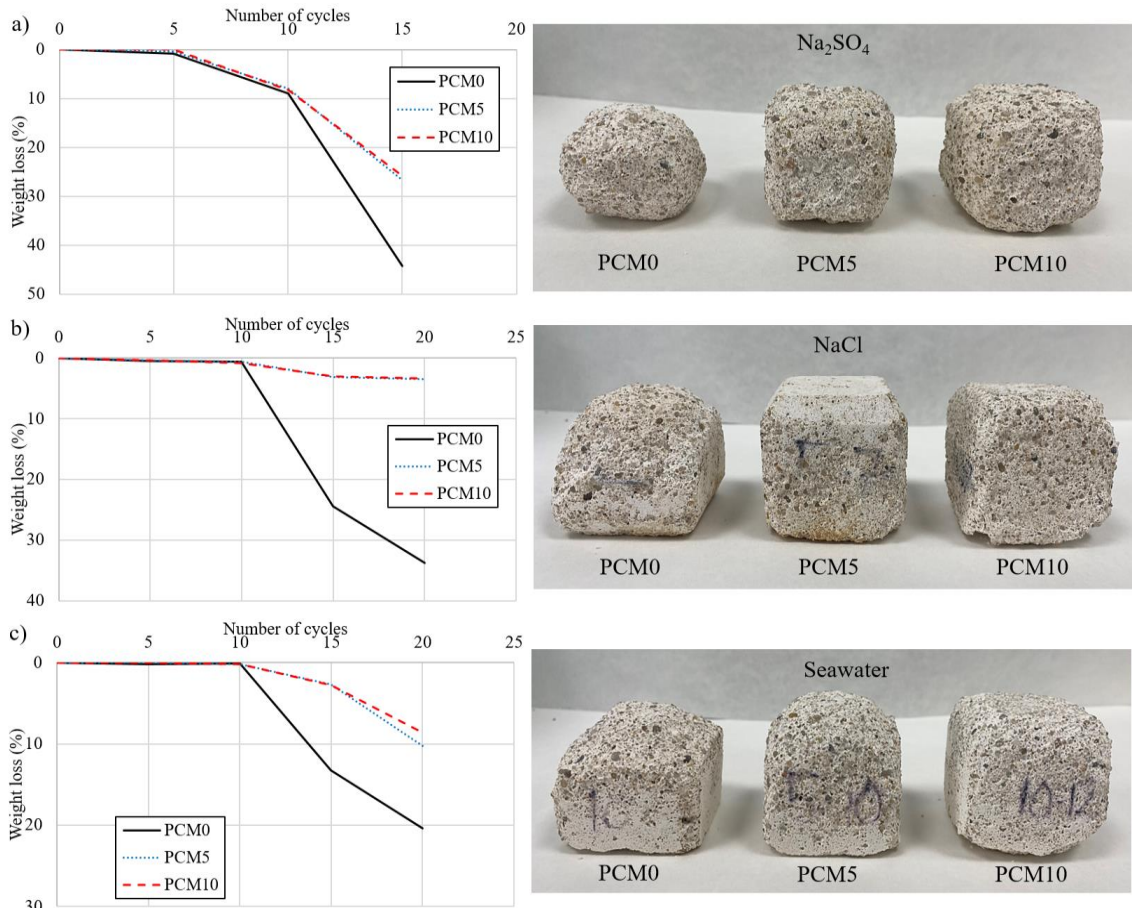
507 **Figure 8.** Average weight loss in % ($n = 3$) suffered by the mortars as a function of the
508 number of freeze–thaw cycles performed (on the right is shown in detail the weight loss
509 suffered in PCM mortars). The final state of some of the samples used in the test once the
510 10 cycles had been completed is also shown.

511

512 Finally, Figure 9 shows the weight loss suffered by the three mortar types when subjected
513 to alteration processes with different types of salts. The obtained results show that,
514 regardless of the salt used, the PCM-additivated mortars behaved similarly and exhibited
515 greater resistance than mortar samples without PCM. This is due, as was the case in the
516 freeze–thaw cycles, to the change in the pore structure of the lime mortar, and in the
517 accessible porosity (Table 1 and Figure 2), caused by the addition of the PCM. Given that
518 crystallization pressure is inversely proportional to pore size [71,79], the disappearance
519 of small pores results in lower crystallization pressure in these materials. Visually, it was

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520 observed that the greatest loss of material occurred in the PCM0 mortars, which lost their
521 shape. Among each of the salts used, and as would be expected, the greatest losses
522 occurred with sulfate alteration, followed by sodium chloride and, to a lesser extent,
523 seawater alteration.



524

525 **Figure 9.** Average weight loss in % ($n = 5$) during salt crystallization cycles using
526 Na_2SO_4 (a), NaCl (b), and seawater (c) on different mortars: PCM0 is represented by the
527 straight black line, PCM5 by the dotted blue line, PCM10 by the dashed red line.
528 Macroscopic images of several mortar samples obtained at the end of the respective
529 crystallization cycles are also shown.

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531 As can be seen, the PCM-additivated mortars' greater resistance at 60 days to the action
532 of soluble salts and water is similar to that already indicated by the mathematical
533 estimators DDE and PDE_c at 28 days.

534 **3.3. Thermal properties**

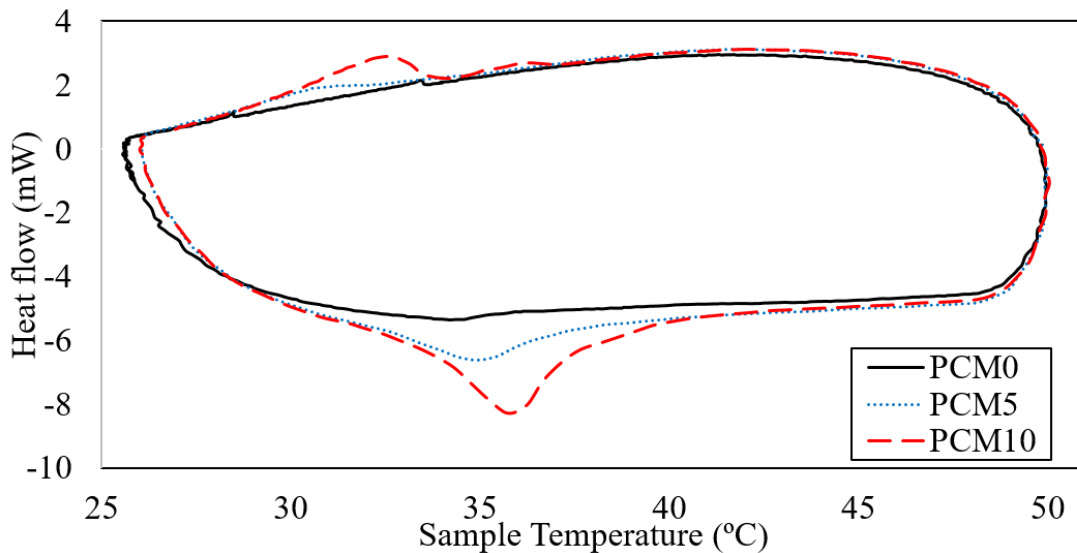
535 Figure 10 shows the heat fluxes corresponding to the temperature cycles performed on
536 each mortar type. From the obtained results, it can be seen that the addition of the PCM
537 improves the thermal properties—with regard to heat retention and heat transfer
538 capacity—of the mortar without the PCM, especially as the content of this compound
539 increases in the blend, a similar result to that reported in [23,80]. In general, it was
540 observed that there was no variation of heat flow in the PCM0 mortar. In other words, it
541 remained practically constant despite the variation in temperature. As the PCM was
542 added, the peaks characteristic of the raw PCM used (Figure 1) began to appear during
543 both the melting and freezing phases. In the PCM5, the latent heat capacity reached
544 1.7 ± 0.04 kJ/kg and 1.7 ± 0.05 kJ/kg in the cooling and heating phases, with the freezing
545 and melting points being 34.9 °C and 30.7 °C, respectively. With an addition of 10%
546 PCM (i.e., PCM10) a double peak in the freezing phase (at 33 °C and 36 °C,
547 approximately) and a single peak in the melting phase (at 35.7 °C) were observed. The
548 latent heat capacity achieved in this mortar was almost twice that achieved in PCM5
549 (4.1 ± 0.07 kJ/kg and 3.9 ± 0.02 kJ/kg during the freezing and melting phases,
550 respectively). This fact does not mean that the addition of a certain PCM content leads to
551 a proportional increase in latent heat.

552 As might be expected, and as occurs in other studies [63], the thermal behavior observed
553 in the PCM-additivated mortars—in terms of temperature peaks in melting and freezing
554 phases—differs from that shown by the raw PCM (Table 3). This difference decreases as
555 more PCM is incorporated into the mixture.

556 **Table 3.** Summary of DCS results obtained for the raw PCM (RT 35 HC) and the mortars
 557 with the PCM in their composition (PCM5 and PCM10).

Specimen	Melting phase		Freezing phase	
	Peak Temp. (°C)	Latent Heat Capacity (kJ/kg)	Peak Temp. (°C)	Latent Heat Capacity (kJ/kg)
RT 35 HC	39.2	239.6	30.9	240.7
PCM5	30.7	1.7	34.9	1.7
PCM10	35.7	3.9	32.8	4.1

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560 **Figure 10.** DSC analysis of mortars with differing PCM content: 0% (PCM0, straight
 561 black line, 5% (PCM5, dotted blue line), and 10% (PCM10, dashed red line).

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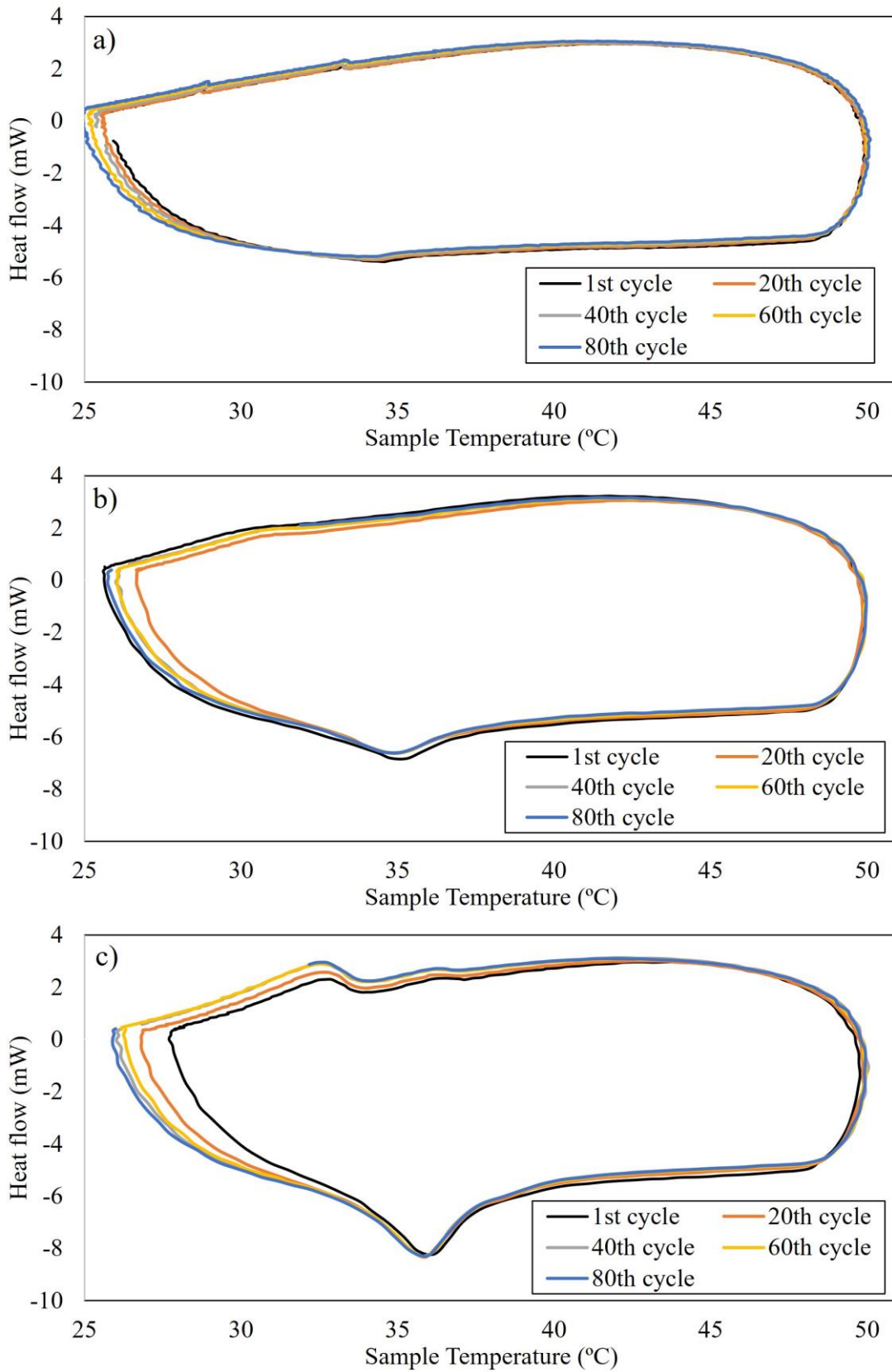
563 Regarding the stability of the mortar mixtures after 80 cycles (Figure 11), it can be
 564 observed that in all cases, regardless of the PCM content, there was not much variation
 565 in heat flow, with different cycles showing similar melting and freezing points.

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566 Figure 12, which corresponds to the cold conductivity test, shows the temperature
567 variation recorded in both the upper and lower parts of the mortar samples after heating
568 them to 60 °C then placing them in water at 12 °C. In general, it was observed that
569 samples containing the PCM took longer to cool than samples without the PCM, which
570 reached the water temperature much earlier. This result is related to the mortar's capacity
571 to store energy when the PCM's melting point (in this case 39 °C) is exceeded, and to
572 release it when the temperature decreases below the freezing point (in this case
573 approximately 31 °C). For both the PCM5 and PCM10 mortars, at 31 °C (the PCM phase
574 change temperature) there is a slowdown in temperature loss (lower slope of the curve).
575 This slowdown is more pronounced when PCM content is higher (i.e., in the PCM10
576 mortar samples) due to the greater latent heat absorbed and subsequently released by this
577 mortar (similar result to that achieved in [23]). Thus, it was observed that at 50 minutes
578 the samples without the PCM reached the water temperature throughout their mass, while
579 in those with the PCM the time increased to 80 and 150 minutes for the PCM5 and PCM10
580 mortar samples, respectively. This result is similar to that obtained in previous studies,
581 where it was evident that the addition of the PCM improved the thermal behavior of the
582 material [4,27].

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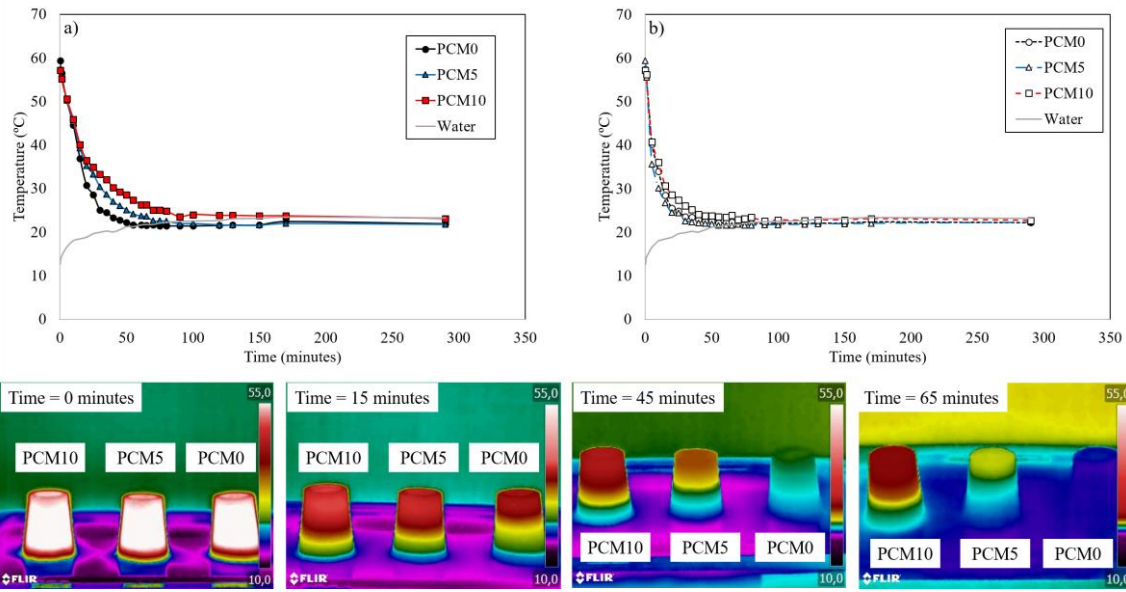


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585 **Figure 11.** DSC analysis for the PCM0 (a), PCM5 (b), and PCM10 (c) mortars over 80

586 thermal cycles.

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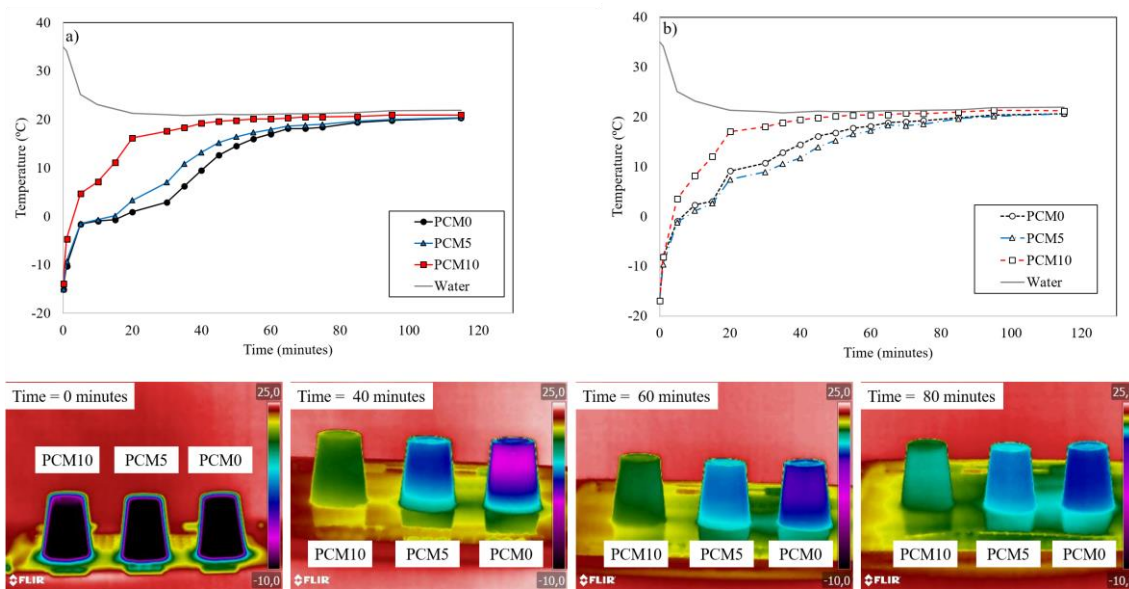
588 **Figure 12.** Average temperature variation ($n = 3$) recorded at heights of 5 cm (a) and
 589 2 cm (b) above the base of the mortar sample during the cold conductivity test, as well as
 590 the average temperature variation of the water in contact with the samples. Thermal
 591 images of the front sides of the mortar samples, both without and with PCM, at different
 592 time intervals are also shown.

593

594 Regarding the opposite test where cold mortar samples were placed in hot water (hot
 595 conductivity test, Figure 13), it was observed that the PCM10 samples reached the water
 596 temperature earliest, regardless of recording height. They were followed in order by the
 597 PCM5 and PCM0 samples. In this test, the melting point of the PCM was not reached,
 598 which avoided its melting, so the results obtained are attributed to a conjunction of the
 599 following factors related to the properties of the mixture: 1) the higher thermal
 600 conductivity of the added PCM ($0.2 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$) compared to air ($0.02 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$), which favors
 601 thermal diffusivity [81]; 2) the lower porosity of the PCM-additivated mortars compared
 602 to PCM0, since a reduction in porosity will increase the thermal conductivity and thermal
 603 diffusivity of the mixture [81]; and 3) the higher degree of capillary saturation reached

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604 by the PCM-additivated mortars, especially the PCM10 samples, and the non-existence
605 of pores smaller than 0.1 μm that are not accessible to water (Figures 2 and 3), which
606 produces earlier thermal equilibrium between the mortar and the water [82].



608
609 **Figure 13.** Average temperature variation ($n = 3$) recorded at heights of 5 cm (a) and
610 2 cm (b) above the base of the mortar sample during the hot conductivity test, as well as
611 the average temperature variation of the water in contact with the samples. Thermal
612 images of the front sides of the mortar samples, both without and with PCM, at different
613 time intervals are also shown.

614 615 4. Conclusions

616 The main conclusion to be drawn from this study is that addition of this paraffinic PCM
617 (RT 35 HC) to the lime mortar composition decreases, at the same water content, the
618 mortars' accessible porosity, mainly doing so by filling the pores with the smallest
619 diameters. This slows down the carbonation process and increases resistance to the

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620 damage caused by the ingress of external alteration agents, such as water and soluble
621 salts.

622 Likewise, the reduction in porosity improves the mortar's mechanical resistance, both to
623 impact and compression, by reducing voids and increasing the mechanically useful
624 section.

625 In addition, the presence of this PCM improves the thermal properties of the mortar, both
626 as regards energy storage and as regards energy transfer. Furthermore, at low
627 temperatures at which the PCM does not reach its melting point its presence increases
628 thermal diffusivity by reducing the number of voids and favoring saturation of the
629 material by capillarity.

630 This PCM is stable over time; however, a high concentration of this type of PCM causes
631 internal stresses during the thermal melting–solidification cycles due to the different
632 coefficients of thermal expansion between the mortar and the PCM. This offers a real
633 opportunity for energy saving in buildings, although application must be analyzed on a
634 case-by-case basis since it can cause structural damage.

635 All these changes are more noticeable when larger amounts of the PCM are added to the
636 blend.

637 This paper contributes to existing knowledge on the direct addition of organic PCMs to
638 lime mortars, which are usually applied in restoration of buildings catalogued as cultural
639 heritage.

640

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649 ENM).

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Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: