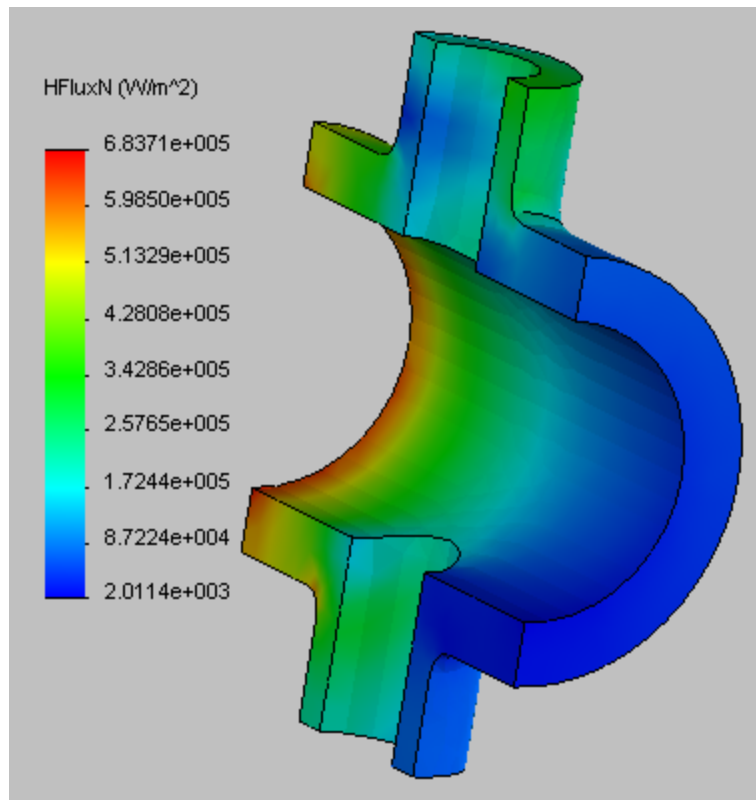
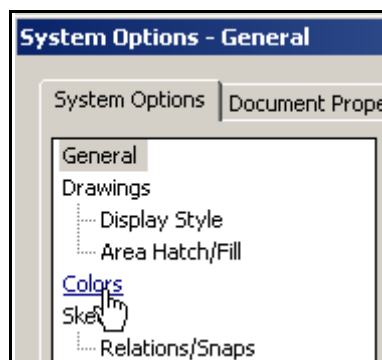


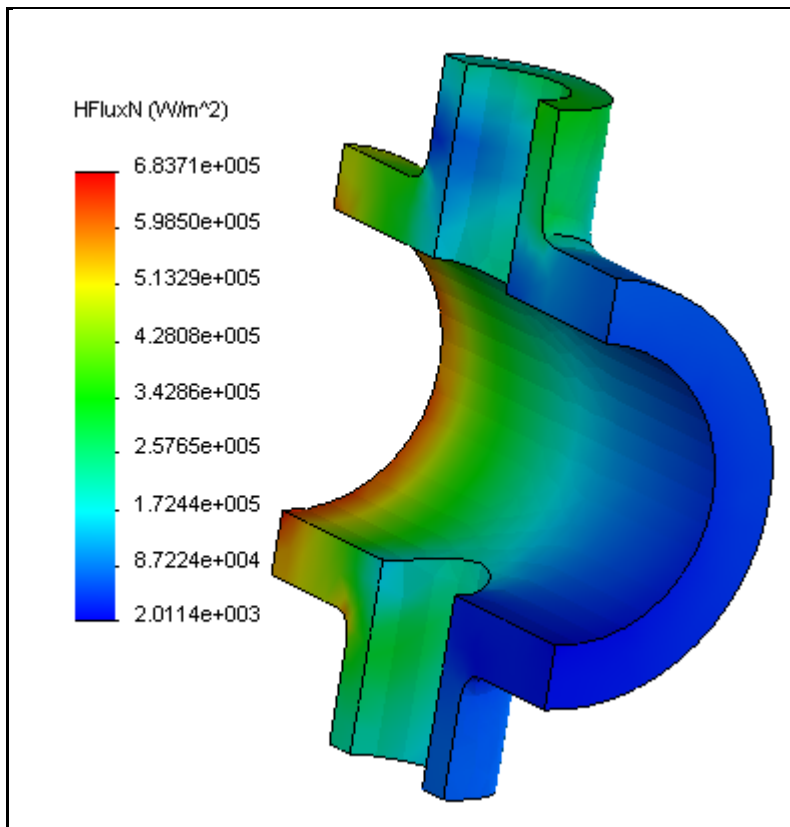
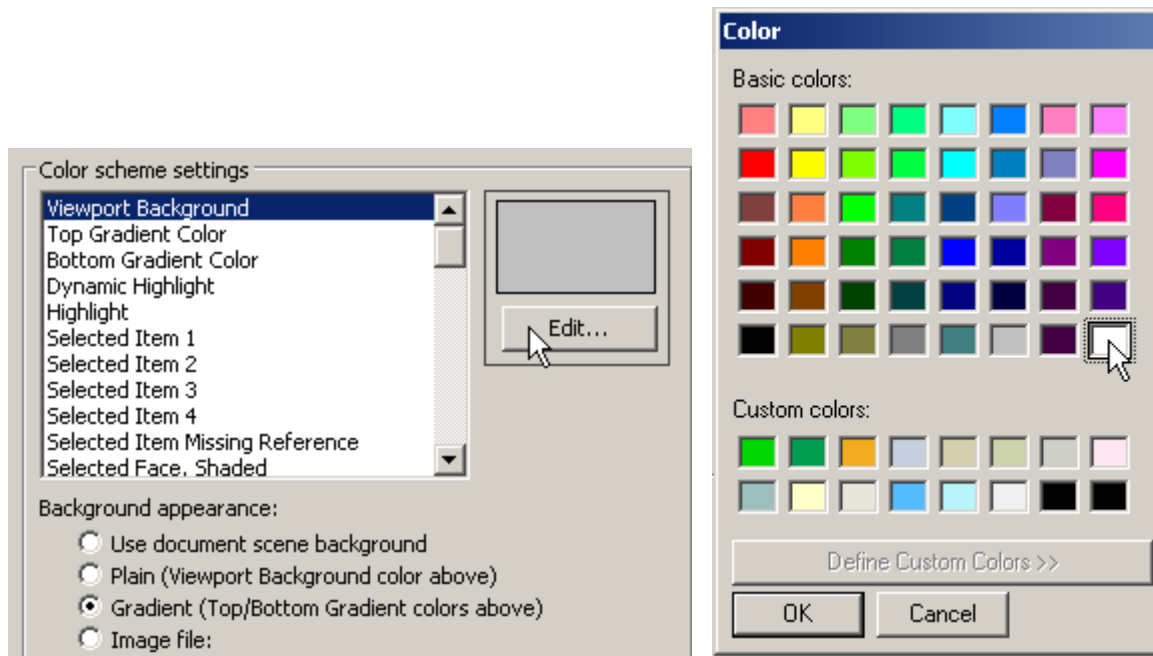
Image Guidelines for SolidWorks Reports

When using SolidWorks (SW) and similar systems there are ways to improve the capture images that you plan to utilize in a report. First, a typical default image is presented:

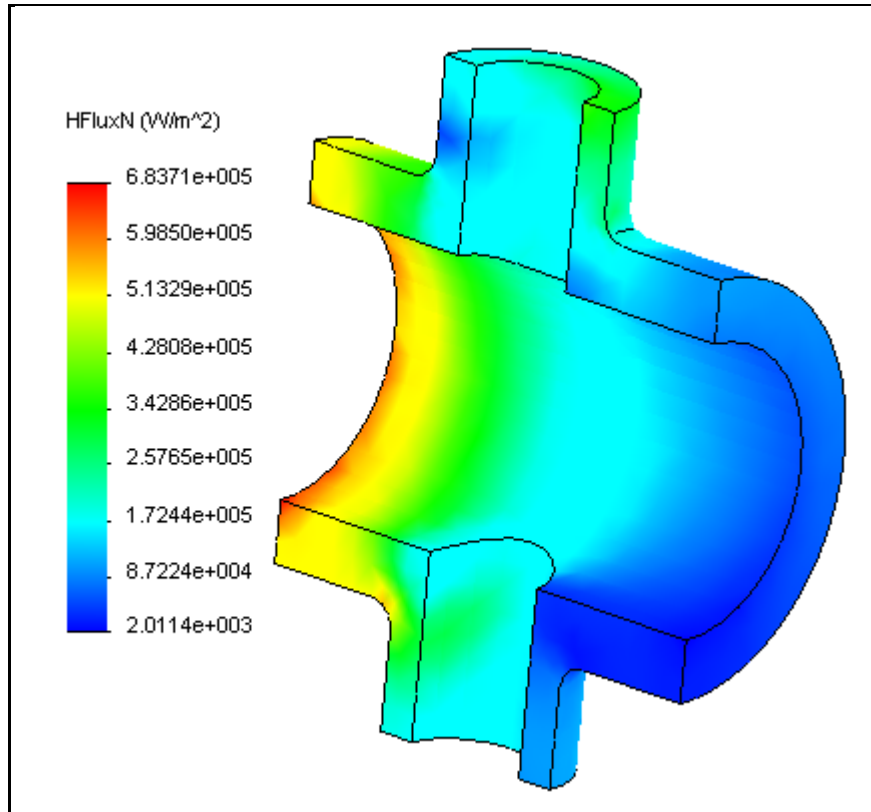
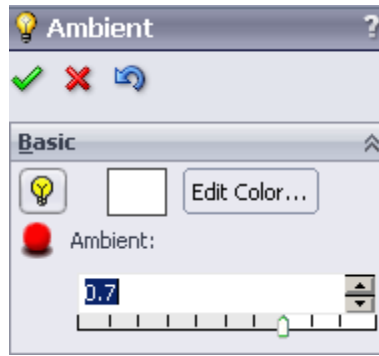


Now some options to enhance it will be illustrated. Most systems have a default background color intended to reduce eyestrain. In this case it is gray. For your printed reports, you typically want a white background. That is a system level option. In SW use **Tools** → **Options** → **System Options** → **Colors** and edit the background color.

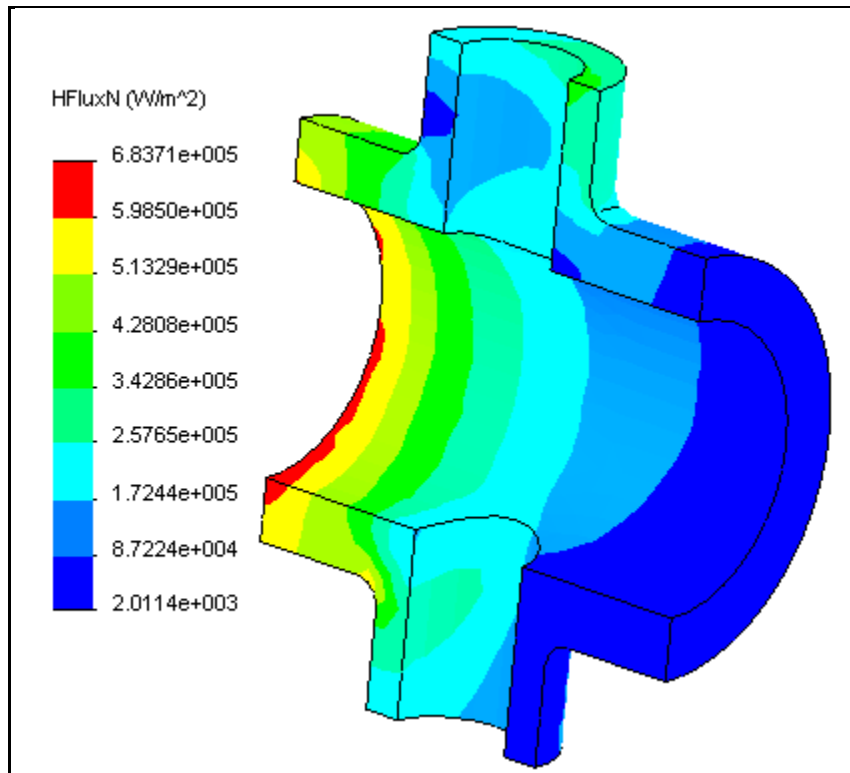




The part is still dark due to its lighting. There are several light options in most systems. Usually the ambient lighting is the easiest to change. In the Model tree, right click on **Annotations** → **Hide/Show Tree Items** and set **Lights, Camera** to show. Right click on Ambient and raise its light level to get a new display.



While a continuous color can describe the actual solution, it can also hit poor mesh results during the averaging process. Often discrete colors print better on paper, and may reveal poor mesh results. Use **Settings**→**Discrete** to see them:



Space is limited in reports so you may want to reduce the space occupied by the color chart by reducing the number of digits displayed and the width of the scale bar:

Chart Options ?

✓ ✗

Display Options ▾

Position/Format ▲

Predefined positions

22 %

32 %

Thin

scientific (e)

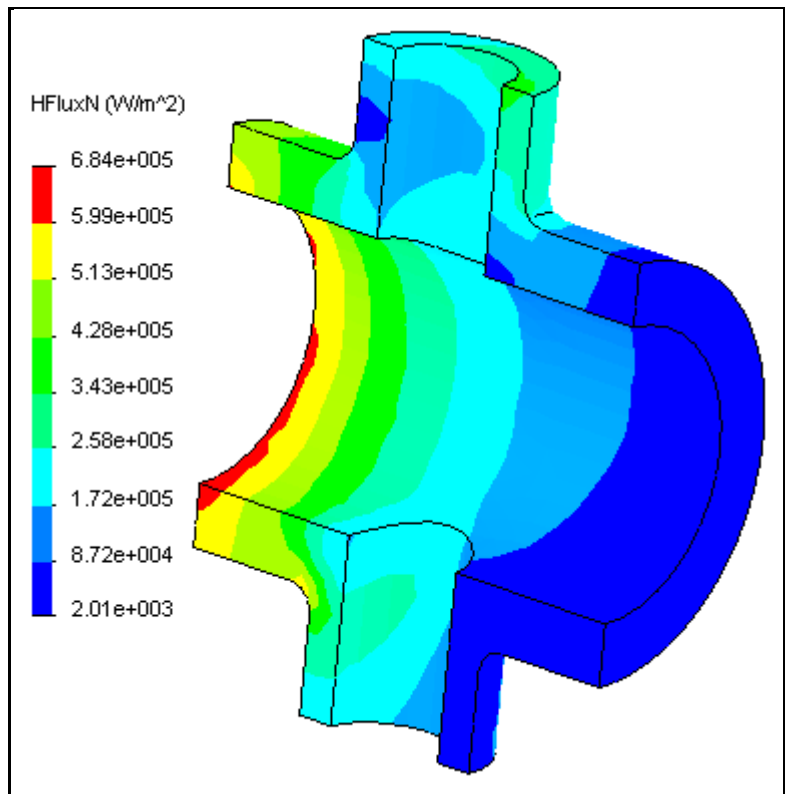
2

Color Options ▲

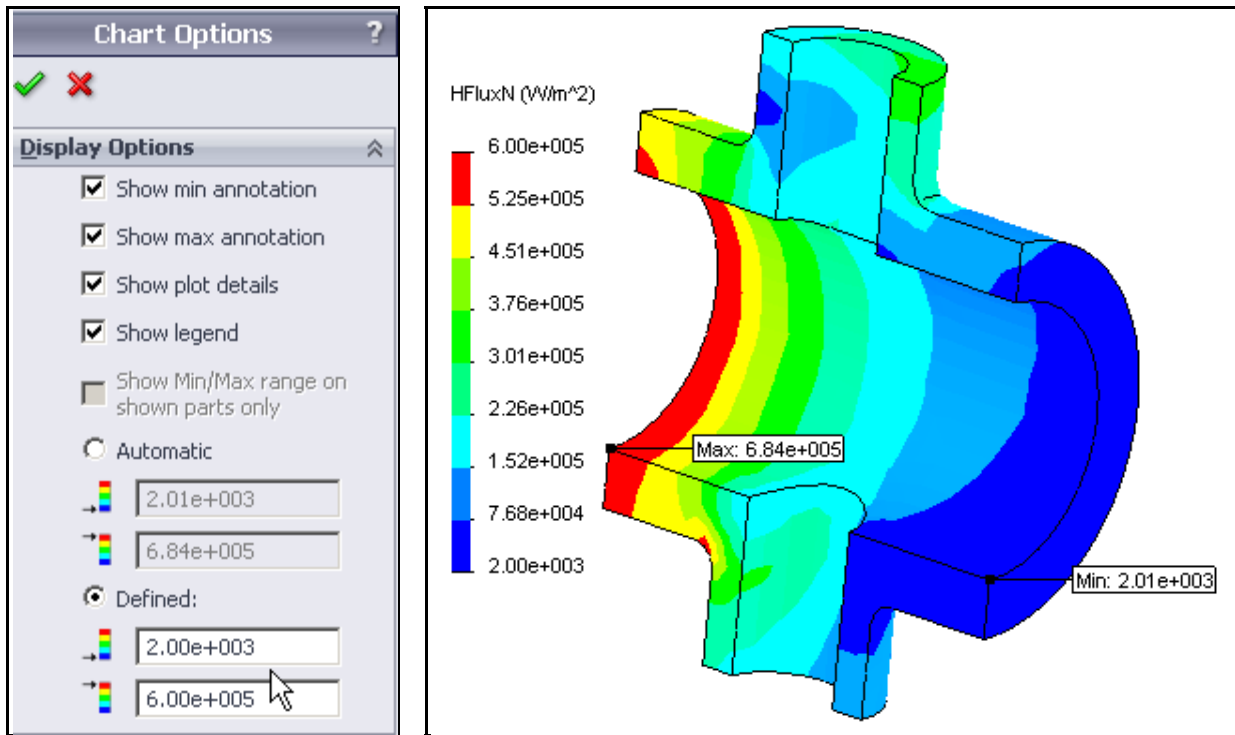
Default

8

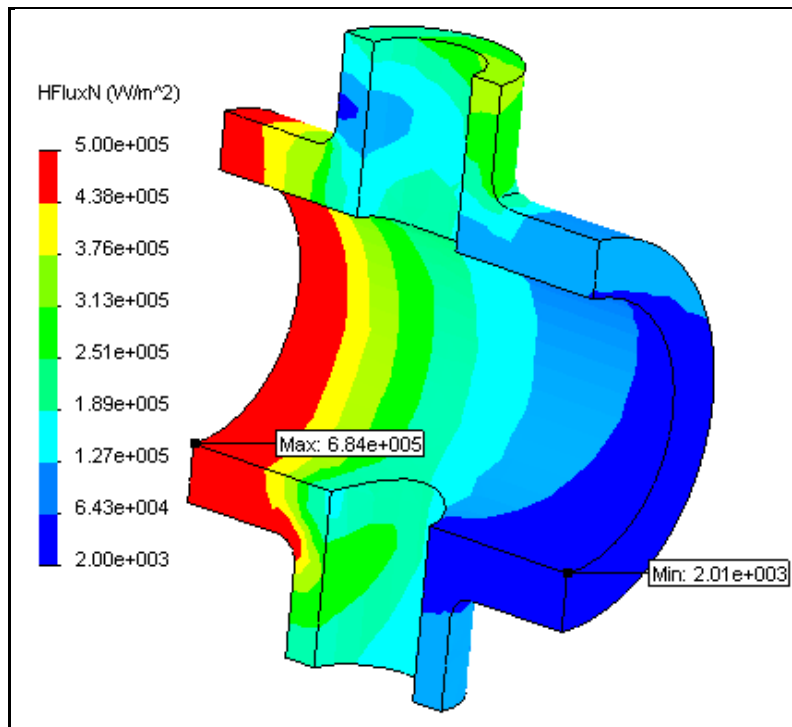
A screenshot of the 'Chart Options' dialog box. It shows settings for 'Position/Format' (22%, 32%, Thin, scientific (e), 2) and 'Color Options' (Default, 8). The 'Color Options' section includes a color bar and a numeric input field set to 8.



Most systems display default contour levels defined by the extreme values occurring in tiny regions (not the case here). Then the contour plot is essentially a non-informative single color. You can, and should, control the contour ranges to convey more information. Also, include the maximum or minimum ranges so they are clear after the contour rescale:



Try different ranges to show the trends of interest:



In conclusion, note the difference in the original and final revised report images.

