

# Department of Computer Engineering

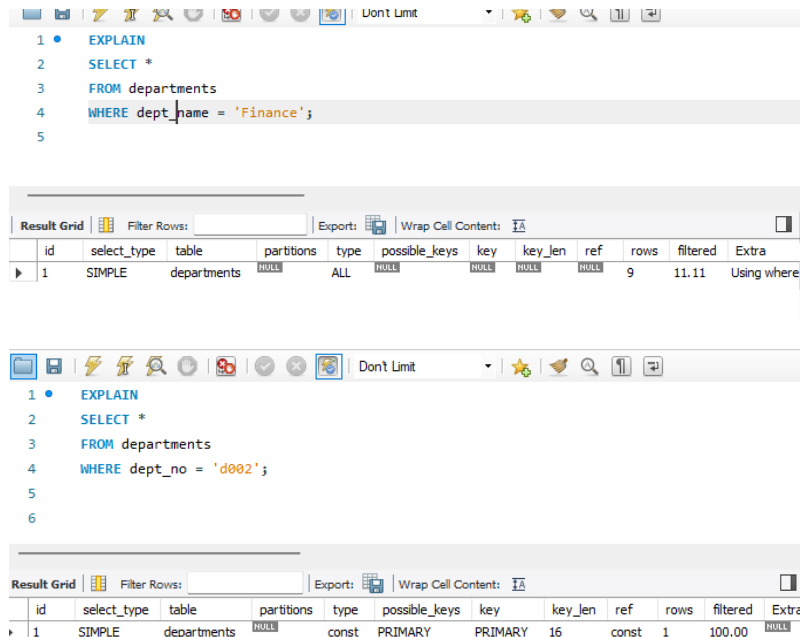
## University of Peradeniya

### CO527 Advanced Database Systems

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#### 1) Troubleshooting Simple Queries Using EXPLAIN



The image shows two screenshots of the MySQL EXPLAIN command output. The first screenshot shows the query: `EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM departments WHERE dept_name = 'Finance';` The output table has columns: id, select\_type, table, partitions, type, possible\_keys, key, key\_len, ref, rows, filtered, Extra. The row for id=1 shows: SIMPLE, departments, NULL, ALL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, 9, 11.11, Using where. The second screenshot shows the query: `EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM departments WHERE dept_no = 'd002';` The output table has columns: id, select\_type, table, partitions, type, possible\_keys, key, key\_len, ref, rows, filtered, Extra. The row for id=1 shows: SIMPLE, departments, NULL, const, PRIMARY, PRIMARY, 16, const, 1, 100.00, NULL.

id	select_type	table	partitions	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	filtered	Extra
1	SIMPLE	departments	NULL	ALL	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL	9	11.11	Using where

id	select_type	table	partitions	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	filtered	Extra
1	SIMPLE	departments	NULL	const	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	16	const	1	100.00	NULL

**Query 1:** dept\_name = 'Finance'

- key = NULL → No index is used
- type = ALL → Full table scan
- rows → MySQL checks all rows in departments
- Reason: dept\_name is not indexed

Interpretation: MySQL scans the entire department's table to find matching records, which is inefficient and does not scale well for large datasets.

**Query 2:** dept\_no = 'd002'

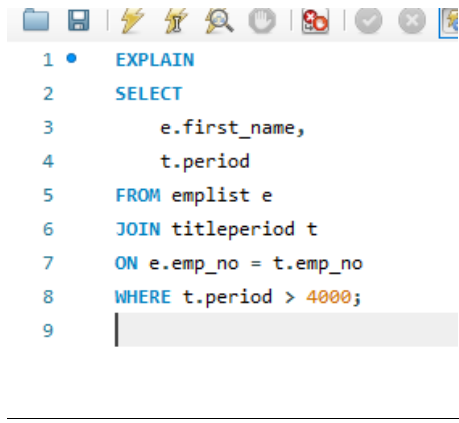
- key = PRIMARY → Primary key index is used
- type = const → Fastest possible access type
- rows = 1 → Only one row examined
- Reason: dept\_no is the primary key

Interpretation: MySQL directly locates the required row using the primary key index, resulting in minimal row access and optimal performance.

## 2) Join Query Analysis Using EXPLAIN

```
1 • CREATE TABLE emplist
2   SELECT emp_no, first_name FROM employees;
3
4 • CREATE TABLE titleperiod
5   SELECT emp_no, title, DATEDIFF(to_date, from_date) AS period
6   FROM titles;
7
```

Initial Query



```
1 • EXPLAIN
2   SELECT
3     e.first_name,
4     t.period
5   FROM emplist e
6   JOIN titleperiod t
7   ON e.emp_no = t.emp_no
8   WHERE t.period > 4000;
9
```

### EXPLAIN Output Analysis

- Join type: ALL (full table scan on both tables)
- Rows examined: emplist\_rows × titleperiod\_rows
- MySQL uses a nested loop join
- Large number of row combinations must be checked
- No indexes available to speed up matching

Estimated Row Combinations

- emplist has 300,024 rows
- titleperiod has 443308 rows

Then MySQL may evaluate hundreds of millions of row combinations, leading to poor performance. This is why the query is extremely slow.

### 3) Indexing for Optimization

```
1 • ALTER TABLE emplist
2   ADD PRIMARY KEY (emp_no);
3
4 • CREATE INDEX empno_idx
5   ON titleperiod(emp_no);
6
```

Before Indexing

25	11:05:13	CREATE TABLE emplist SELECT emp_no, first_name FROM employees	300024 row(s) affected Records: 300024 Duplicates: 0 Warnings: 0	2.500 sec
26	11:05:15	CREATE TABLE titleperiod SELECT emp_no, title, DATEDIFF(to_date, from_date) AS period FROM titles	443308 row(s) affected Records: 443308 Duplicates: 0 Warnings: 0	4.032 sec

After Indexing

30	11:54:22	EXPLAIN SELECT e.first_name, t.period FROM emplist e JOIN titleperiod t ON e.emp_no = t.emp_no WHERE t.period > 4000	2 row(s) returned	0.016 sec / 0.000 sec
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#### The Improvement

##### Before Indexing

Full table scans

Huge row combinations

key = NULL

Slow

##### After Indexing

Index lookups

Drastically reduced

key = PRIMARY / idx\_emp\_no

Fast

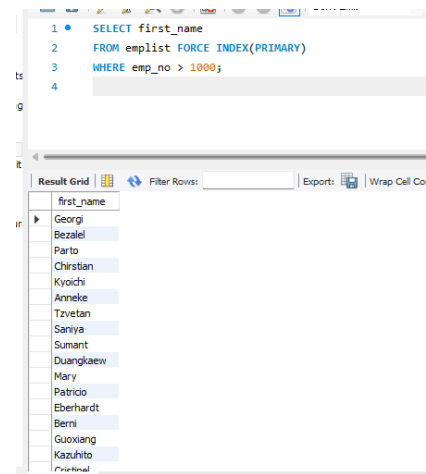
Is it possible to optimize the query execution further?

Yes it is possible to optimize. We can use Composite Index for this. This allows efficient join and efficient filtering.

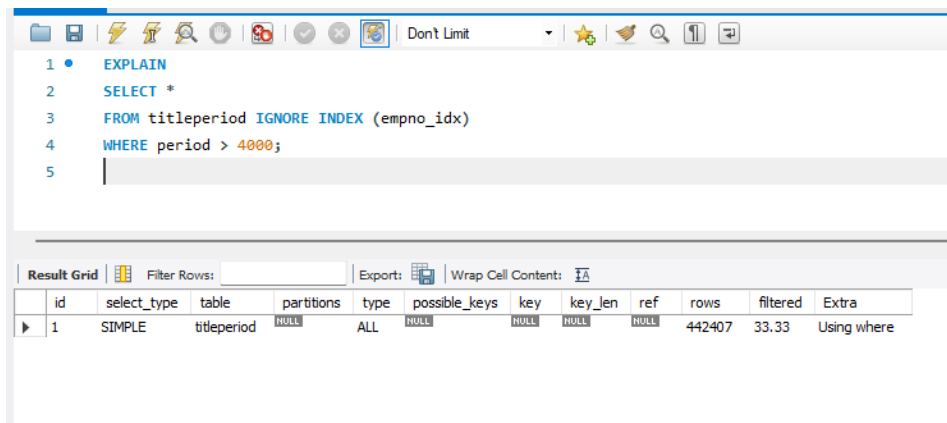
```
CREATE INDEX idx_emp_period
ON titleperiod(emp_no, period);
```

### 4) Query Rewriting Techniques

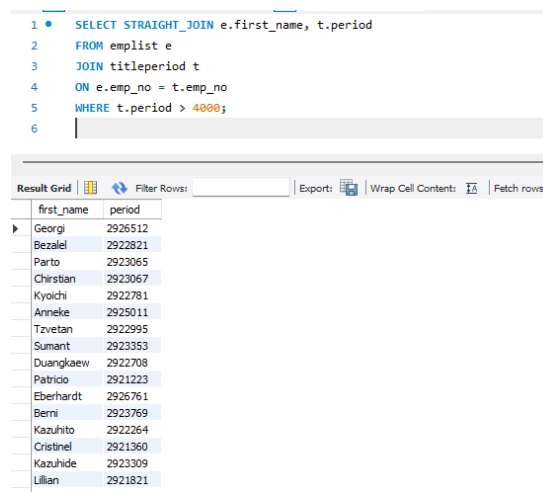
FORCE INDEX



## IGNORE INDEX



## STRAIGHT\_JOIN



These techniques provide **manual control** when the optimizer's choice is suboptimal.