# **String operators**

Article • 04/16/2023

Kusto offers various query operators for searching string data types. The following article describes how string terms are indexed, lists the string query operators, and gives tips for optimizing performance.

# **Understanding string terms**

Kusto indexes all columns, including columns of type string. Multiple indexes are built for such columns, depending on the actual data. These indexes aren't directly exposed, but are used in queries with the string operators that have has as part of their name, such as has, !has, hasprefix, !hasprefix. The semantics of these operators are dictated by the way the column is encoded. Instead of doing a "plain" substring match, these operators match *terms*.

#### What is a term?

By default, each string value is broken into maximal sequences of alphanumeric characters, and each of those sequences is made into a term.

For example, in the following string, the terms are Kusto, KustoExplorerQueryRun, and the following substrings: ad67d136, c1db, 4f9f, 88ef, d94f3b6b0b5a.

Kusto

Kusto: ad67d136-c1db-4f9f-88ef-d94f3b6b0b5a; KustoExplorerQueryRun

Kusto builds a term index consisting of all terms that are *three characters or more*, and this index is used by string operators such as has, !has, and so on. If the query looks for a term that is smaller than three characters, or uses a contains operator, then the query will revert to scanning the values in the column. Scanning is much slower than looking up the term in the term index.

① Note

In EngineV2, a term consists of four or more characters.

# Operators on strings

The following abbreviations are used in this article:

- RHS = right hand side of the expression
- LHS = left hand side of the expression

Operators with an \_cs suffix are case sensitive.

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
==	Equals	Yes	"aBc" == "aBc"
!=	Not equals	Yes	"abc" != "ABC"
=~	Equals	No	"abc" =~ "ABC"
!~	Not equals	No	"aBc" !~ "xyz"
contains	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	No	"FabriKam" contains "BRik"
!contains	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !contains "xyz"
contains_cs	s_cs RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS		"FabriKam" contains_cs "Kam"
!contains_cs	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !contains_cs
endswith	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" endswith "Kam"
!endswith	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !endswith "brik"
endswith_cs	Iswith_cs RHS is a closing subsequence of Yes "Fabrikam" endswi		"Fabrikam" endswith_cs "kam"
!endswith_cs	th_cs RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS		"Fabrikam" !endswith_cs
has	Right-hand-side (RHS) is a whole term in left-hand-side (LHS)	No	"North America" has
!has	RHS isn't a full term in LHS	No	"North America" !has "amer"
has_all	Same as has but works on all of the elements	No	"North and South America" has_all("south", "north")

Operator	perator Description		Example (yields true)
has_any	Same as has but works on any of the elements		"North America" has_any("south", "north")
has_cs	RHS is a whole term in LHS	Yes	"North America" has_cs "America"
!has_cs	RHS isn't a full term in LHS	Yes	"North America" !has_cs "amer"
hasprefix	RHS is a term prefix in LHS	No	"North America" hasprefix "ame"
!hasprefix	RHS isn't a term prefix in LHS	No	"North America" !hasprefix
hasprefix_cs	RHS is a term prefix in LHS	Yes	"North America" hasprefix_cs "Ame"
!hasprefix_cs RHS isn't a term prefix in LHS Yes "North Amer"		"North America" !hasprefix_cs "CA"	
hassuffix	RHS is a term suffix in LHS	No	"North America" hassuffix "ica"
!hassuffix	!hassuffix RHS isn't a term suffix in LHS N		"North America" !hassuffix "americ"
hassuffix_cs RHS is a term suffix in LHS Yes "North America"		"North America" hassuffix_cs	
!hassuffix_cs	!hassuffix_cs RHS isn't a term suffix in LHS		"North America" !hassuffix_cs
in	Equals to any of the elements	Yes	"abc" in ("123", "345", "abc")
!in	lin Not equals to any of the elements		"bca" !in ("123", "345", "abc")
in~	~ Equals to any of the elements		"Abc" in~ ("123", "345", "abc")
!in~	~ Not equals to any of the elements No "bCa" !in~ (":		"bCa" !in~ ("123", "345", "ABC")
matches regex	LHS contains a match for RHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" matches regex "b.*k"

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
startswith	RHS is an initial subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" startswith "fab"
!startswith	RHS isn't an initial subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !startswith "kam"
startswith_cs	RHS is an initial subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" startswith_cs
!startswith_cs	RHS isn't an initial subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !startswith_cs "fab"

# **Performance tips**

For better performance, when there are two operators that do the same task, use the case-sensitive one. For example:

- Use ==, not =~
- Use in, not in~
- Use hassuffix cs, not hassuffix

For faster results, if you're testing for the presence of a symbol or alphanumeric word that is bound by non-alphanumeric characters, or the start or end of a field, use has or in. has works faster than contains, startswith, or endswith.

To search for IPv4 addresses or their prefixes, use one of special operators on IPv4 addresses, which are optimized for this purpose.

For more information, see Query best practices.

For example, the first of these queries will run faster:

#### Run the query

```
Kusto

StormEvents | where State has "North" | count;
StormEvents | where State contains "nor" | count
```

# Operators on IPv4 addresses

The following group of operators provide index accelerated search on IPv4 addresses or their prefixes.

Operator	Description	Example (yields true)
has_ipv4	LHS contains IPv4 address represented by RHS	has_ipv4("Source address is 10.1.2.3:1234", "10.1.2.3")
has_ipv4_prefix	LHS contains an IPv4 address that matches a prefix represented by RHS	has_ipv4_prefix("Source address is 10.1.2.3:1234", "10.1.2.")
has_any_ipv4	LHS contains one of IPv4 addresses provided by RHS	has_any_ipv4("Source address is 10.1.2.3:1234", dynamic(["10.1.2.3", "127.0.0.1"]))
has_any_ipv4_prefix	LHS contains an IPv4 address that matches one of prefixes provided by RHS	has_any_ipv4_prefix("Source address is 10.1.2.3:1234", dynamic(["10.1.2.", "127.0.0."]))

# **Feedback**

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# contains operator

Article • 03/16/2023

Filters a record set for data containing a case-insensitive string. contains searches for arbitrary sub-strings rather than terms.

The following table compares the contains operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
contains	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	No	"FabriKam" contains "BRik"
!contains	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !contains "xyz"
contains_cs	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	Yes	"FabriKam" contains_cs "Kam"
!contains_cs	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !contains_cs "Kam"

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

When possible, use contains\_cs - a case-sensitive version of the operator.

If you're looking for a term, use has for faster results.

## **Syntax**

## **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	✓	The name of the column to check for <i>string</i> .
string	string	✓	The case-sensitive string by which to filter the data.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which *string* is in *col*.

# **Example**

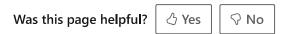
#### Run the query

# StormEvents | summarize event\_count=count() by State | where State contains "enn" | where event\_count > 10 | project State, event\_count | render table

#### Output

State	event_count
PENNSYLVANIA	1687
TENNESSEE	1125

## **Feedback**



# contains\_cs operator

Article • 03/16/2023

Filters a record set for data containing a case-sensitive string. contains\_cs searches for arbitrary sub-strings rather than terms.

The following table compares the contains operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
contains	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	No	"FabriKam" contains "BRik"
!contains	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !contains "xyz"
contains_cs	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	Yes	"FabriKam" contains_cs "Kam"
!contains_cs	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !contains_cs

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

If you're looking for a term, use has\_cs for faster results.

# **Syntax**

T | where col contains\_cs (string)

## **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	✓	The name of the column to check for <i>string</i> .
string	string	✓	The case-sensitive string by which to filter the data.

## **Returns**

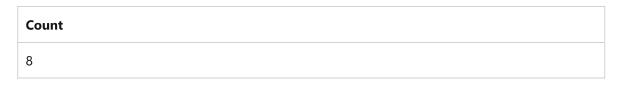
Rows in *T* for which *string* is in *col*.

# **Example**

#### Run the query

StormEvents
| summarize event\_count=count() by State
| where State contains\_cs "AS"

#### Output



## **Feedback**

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# !contains operator

Article • 03/12/2023

Filters a record set for data that doesn't include a case-sensitive string. !contains searches for characters rather than terms of three or more characters. The query scans the values in the column, which is slower than looking up a term in a term index.

The following table compares the contains operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
contains	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	No	"FabriKam" contains "BRik"
!contains	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !contains "xyz"
contains_cs	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	Yes	"FabriKam" contains_cs "Kam"
!contains_cs	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !contains_cs

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see **Query best practices**.

When possible, use the case-sensitive !contains\_cs.

Use !has if you're looking for a term.

## **Syntax**

## Case insensitive syntax

T | where Column !contains (Expression)

## **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
T	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
Column	string	✓	The column by which to filter.
Expression	scalar	✓	The scalar or literal expression for which to search.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

#### Run the query

```
StormEvents
| summarize event_count=count() by State
| where State !contains "kan"
| where event_count > 3000
| project State, event_count
```

#### Output

State	event_count
TEXAS	4701

## **Feedback**



# !contains\_cs operator

Article • 03/12/2023

Filters a record set for data that doesn't include a case-sensitive string. !contains\_cs searches for characters rather than terms of three or more characters. The query scans the values in the column, which is slower than looking up a term in a term index.

The following table compares the contains operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
contains	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	No	"FabriKam" contains "BRik"
!contains	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !contains "xyz"
contains_cs	RHS occurs as a subsequence of LHS	Yes	"FabriKam" contains_cs "Kam"
!contains_cs	RHS doesn't occur in LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !contains_cs

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see **Query best practices**.

If you're looking for a term, use !has\_cs for faster results.

# **Syntax**

#### Case-sensitive syntax

#### **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
T	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
Column	string	✓	The column by which to filter.
Expression	scalar	<b>√</b>	The scalar or literal expression for which to search.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Examples**

#### Run the query

#### Kusto

#### StormEvents

| summarize event\_count=count() by State | where State !contains\_cs "AS" | count

#### Output

#### Count

59

#### Run the query

#### Kusto

#### StormEvents

| summarize event\_count=count() by State
| where State !contains\_cs "TEX"
| where event\_count > 3000
| project State, event\_count

## Output

State	event_count
KANSAS	3,166

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# endswith operator

Article • 01/30/2023

Filters a record set for data with a case-insensitive ending string.

The following table compares the endswith operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
endswith	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" endswith "Kam"
!endswith	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !endswith
endswith_cs	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" endswith_cs
!endswith_cs	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !endswith_cs

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

For faster results, use the case-sensitive version of an operator. For example, use endswith\_cs instead of endswith.

# **Syntax**

T | where col endswith (expression)

## **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	✓	The column to filter.
expression	string	<b>√</b>	The expression used to filter.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

#### Run the query

# StormEvents | summarize Events=count() by State | where State endswith "sas" | where Events > 10 | project State, Events

#### Output

State	Events
KANSAS	3166
ARKANSAS	1028

## **Feedback**

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# endswith\_cs operator

Article • 01/30/2023

Filters a record set for data with a case-sensitive ending string.

The following table compares the endswith operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
endswith	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" endswith "Kam"
!endswith	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !endswith
endswith_cs	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" endswith_cs
!endswith_cs	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !endswith_cs

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see **Query best practices**.

# **Syntax**

T | where col endswith\_cs (expression)

#### **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	✓	The column to filter.
expression	string	<b>√</b>	The expression used to filter.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

#### Run the query

```
StormEvents
| summarize Events = count() by State
| where State endswith_cs "NA"
```

#### Output

State	Events
NORTH CAROLINA	1721
MONTANA	1230
INDIANA	1164
SOUTH CAROLINA	915
LOUISIANA	463
ARIZONA	340

## **Feedback**



# !endswith operator

Article • 01/30/2023

Filters a record set for data that excludes a case-insensitive ending string.

The following table compares the endswith operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
endswith	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" endswith "Kam"
!endswith	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !endswith
endswith_cs	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" endswith_cs
!endswith_cs	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !endswith_cs

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

When possible, use the case-sensitive !endswith\_cs.

## **Syntax**

T | where col !endswith (expression)

## **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	✓	The column to filter.
expression	string	✓	The expression used to filter.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

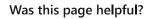
#### Run the query

```
StormEvents
| summarize Events=count() by State
| where State !endswith "is"
| where Events > 2000
| project State, Events
```

#### Output

State	Events
TEXAS	4701
KANSAS	3166
IOWA	2337
MISSOURI	2016

## **Feedback**







# !endswith\_cs operator

Article • 01/30/2023

Filters a record set for data that doesn't contain a case-insensitive ending string.

The following table compares the endswith operators using the abbreviations provided:

- RHS = right-hand side of the expression
- LHS = left-hand side of the expression

Operator	Description	Case- Sensitive	Example (yields true)
endswith	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" endswith "Kam"
!endswith	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	No	"Fabrikam" !endswith
endswith_cs	RHS is a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" endswith_cs
!endswith_cs	RHS isn't a closing subsequence of LHS	Yes	"Fabrikam" !endswith_cs "brik"

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

# **Syntax**

T | where col !endswith\_cs (expression)

#### **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	✓	The column to filter.
expression	string	✓	The expression used to filter.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# Example

#### Run the query

```
StormEvents
| summarize Events=count() by State
| where State !endswith_cs "A"
```

The following table only shows the first 10 results. To see the full output, run the query.

State	Events
TEXAS	4701
KANSAS	3166
ILLINOIS	2022
MISSOURI	2016
WISCONSIN	1850
NEW YORK	1750
COLORADO	1654
MICHIGAN	1637
KENTUCKY	1391
ОНЮ	1233

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# == (equals) operator

Article • 03/29/2023

Filters a record set for data matching a case-sensitive string.

The following table provides a comparison of the == operators:

Operator	Description	Case-Sensitive	Example (yields true)
==	Equals	Yes	"aBc" == "aBc"
!=	Not equals	Yes	"abc" != "ABC"
=~	Equals	No	"abc" =~ "ABC"
!~	Not equals	No	"aBc" !~ "xyz"

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

# **Syntax**

T | where col == (expression, ...)

#### **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
T	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	✓	The column to filter.
expression	string	<b>√</b>	The expression used to filter.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

#### Run the query

```
Kusto

StormEvents
| where State == "kansas"
| count
```

```
Count 0
```

#### Run the query

```
Kusto

StormEvents
| where State == "KANSAS"
| count
```

```
Count
3,166
```

## **Feedback**

Was this page helpful?  $\bigcirc$  Yes  $\bigcirc$  No

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# =~ (equals) operator

Article • 01/30/2023

Filters a record set for data with a case-insensitive string.

The following table provides a comparison of the == (equals) operators:

Operator	Description	Case-Sensitive	Example (yields true)
==	Equals	Yes	"aBc" == "aBc"
!=	Not equals	Yes	"abc" != "ABC"
=~	Equals	No	"abc" =~ "ABC"
!~	Not equals	No	"aBc" !~ "xyz"

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

When possible, use == - a case-sensitive version of the operator.

# **Syntax**

T | where col =~ (expression)

#### **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	✓	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
col	string	<b>√</b>	The column to filter.

Name	Туре	Required	Description
expression	string	✓	The expression used to filter.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

The State values in the StormEvents table are capitalized. The following query matches columns with the value "KANSAS".

#### Run the query

```
Kusto

StormEvents
| where State =~ "kansas"
| project EventId, State
```

The following table only shows the first 10 results. To see the full output, run the query.

EventId	State
70787	KANSAS
43450	KANSAS
43451	KANSAS
38844	KANSAS
18463	KANSAS
18464	KANSAS
18495	KANSAS
43466	KANSAS
43467	KANSAS
43470	KANSAS

# Feedback

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# != (not equals) operator

Article • 03/12/2023

Filters a record set for data that doesn't match a case-sensitive string.

The following table provides a comparison of the == (equals) operators:

Operator	Description	Case-Sensitive	Example (yields true)
==	Equals	Yes	"aBc" == "aBc"
!=	Not equals	Yes	"abc" != "ABC"
=~	Equals	No	"abc" =~ "ABC"
!~	Not equals	No	"aBc" !~ "xyz"

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

# **Syntax**

T | where column != (expression)

#### **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	<b>√</b>	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
column	string	✓	The column by which to filter.
expression	scalar	✓	The scalar or literal expression for which to search.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

#### Run the query

```
StormEvents
| summarize event_count=count() by State
| where (State != "FLORIDA") and (event_count > 4000)
| project State, event_count
```

#### Output

State	event_count
TEXAS	4,701

## **Feedback**

Was this page helpful?  $\bigcirc$  Yes  $\bigcirc$  No

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# !~ (not equals) operator

Article • 03/12/2023

Filters a record set for data that doesn't match a case-insensitive string.

The following table provides a comparison of the == (equals) operators:

Operator	Description	Case-Sensitive	Example (yields true)
==	Equals	Yes	"aBc" == "aBc"
!=	Not equals	Yes	"abc" != "ABC"
=~	Equals	No	"abc" =~ "ABC"
!~	Not equals	No	"aBc" !~ "xyz"

For more information about other operators and to determine which operator is most appropriate for your query, see datatype string operators.

# **Performance tips**

① Note

Performance depends on the type of search and the structure of the data. For best practices, see Query best practices.

When possible, use the case-sensitive !=.

# **Syntax**

T | where column !~ (expression)

#### **Parameters**

Name	Туре	Required	Description
Т	string	<b>√</b>	The tabular input whose records are to be filtered.
column	string	<b>√</b>	The column by which to filter.

Name	Туре	Required	Description
expression	scalar	✓	The scalar or literal expression for which to search.

## **Returns**

Rows in *T* for which the predicate is true.

# **Example**

#### Run the query

```
StormEvents
| summarize event_count=count() by State
| where (State !~ "texas") and (event_count > 3000)
| project State, event_count
```

#### Output

State	event_count
KANSAS	3,166

## **Feedback**



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