

Hybrid Search Methods: A Comprehensive Survey

Method	Precision	Recall	Latency	Use Case
Dense (Semantic)	High	Medium	Fast	Conceptual queries
Sparse (Keyword)	Medium	High	Very Fast	Exact matches
Hybrid (Combined)	Very High	High	Fast	General purpose
Reranked Hybrid	Highest	High	Medium	High precision needs

Survey Conclusions

Hybrid search methods consistently outperform single-mode approaches across diverse query types. The combination of semantic understanding with exact keyword matching provides optimal results for enterprise RAG systems. Azure AI Search's implementation of hybrid search demonstrates superior performance characteristics for production deployments.