The `LINEAR` keyword entails a somewhat different algorithm. In this case, the number of the partition in which a row is stored is calculated as the result of one or more logical `AND` operations. For discussion and examples of linear hashing, see Section 24.2.4.1, “LINEAR HASH Partitioning”.

- `KEY(`*`column_list`*`)`

  This is similar to `HASH`, except that MySQL supplies the hashing function so as to guarantee an even data distribution. The *`column_list`* argument is simply a list of 1 or more table columns (maximum: 16). This example shows a simple table partitioned by key, with 4 partitions:

  ```
  CREATE TABLE tk (col1 INT, col2 CHAR(5), col3 DATE)
      PARTITION BY KEY(col3)
      PARTITIONS 4;
  ```

  For tables that are partitioned by key, you can employ linear partitioning by using the `LINEAR` keyword. This has the same effect as with tables that are partitioned by `HASH`. That is, the partition number is found using the `&` operator rather than the modulus (see Section 24.2.4.1, “LINEAR HASH Partitioning”, and Section 24.2.5, “KEY Partitioning”, for details). This example uses linear partitioning by key to distribute data between 5 partitions:

  ```
  CREATE TABLE tk (col1 INT, col2 CHAR(5), col3 DATE)
      PARTITION BY LINEAR KEY(col3)
      PARTITIONS 5;
  ```

  The `ALGORITHM={1 | 2}` option is supported with `[SUB]PARTITION BY [LINEAR] KEY`. `ALGORITHM=1` causes the server to use the same key-hashing functions as MySQL 5.1; `ALGORITHM=2` means that the server employs the key-hashing functions implemented and used by default for new `KEY` partitioned tables in MySQL 5.5 and later. (Partitioned tables created with the key-hashing functions employed in MySQL 5.5 and later cannot be used by a MySQL 5.1 server.) Not specifying the option has the same effect as using `ALGORITHM=2`. This option is intended for use chiefly when upgrading or downgrading `[LINEAR] KEY` partitioned tables between MySQL 5.1 and later MySQL versions, or for creating tables partitioned by `KEY` or `LINEAR KEY` on a MySQL 5.5 or later server which can be used on a MySQL 5.1 server. For more information, see Section 13.1.9.1, “ALTER TABLE Partition Operations”.

  `mysqldump` in MySQL 5.7 (and later) writes this option encased in versioned comments, like this:

  ```
  CREATE TABLE t1 (a INT)
  /*!50100 PARTITION BY KEY */ /*!50611 ALGORITHM = 1 */ /*!50100 ()
        PARTITIONS 3 */
  ```

  This causes MySQL 5.6.10 and earlier servers to ignore the option, which would otherwise cause a syntax error in those versions. If you plan to load a dump made on a MySQL 5.7 server where you use tables that are partitioned or subpartitioned by `KEY` into a MySQL 5.6 server previous to version 5.6.11, be sure to consult Changes in MySQL 5.6, before proceeding. (The information found there also applies if you are loading a dump containing `KEY` partitioned or subpartitioned tables made from a MySQL 5.7—actually 5.6.11 or later—server into a MySQL 5.5.30 or earlier server.)

  Also in MySQL 5.6.11 and later, `ALGORITHM=1` is shown when necessary in the output of `SHOW CREATE TABLE` using versioned comments in the same manner as `mysqldump`. `ALGORITHM=2` is always omitted from `SHOW CREATE TABLE` output, even if this option was specified when creating the original table.

  You may not use either `VALUES LESS THAN` or `VALUES IN` clauses with `PARTITION BY KEY`.