By default, the search is performed in case-insensitive fashion. To perform a case-sensitive full-text search, use a case-sensitive or binary collation for the indexed columns. For example, a column that uses the utf8mb4 character set of can be assigned a collation of utf8mb4_0900_as_cs or utf8mb4_bin to make it case-sensitive for full-text searches.

When MATCH() is used in a WHERE clause, as in the example shown earlier, the rows returned are automatically sorted with the highest relevance first. Relevance values are nonnegative floating-point numbers. Zero relevance means no similarity. Relevance is computed based on the number of words in the row (document), the number of unique words in the row, the total number of words in the collection, and the number of rows that contain a particular word.



Note

The term "document" may be used interchangeably with the term "row", and both terms refer to the indexed part of the row. The term "collection" refers to the indexed columns and encompasses all rows.

To simply count matches, you could use a query like this:

```
mysql> SELECT COUNT(*) FROM articles
    WHERE MATCH (title,body)
    AGAINST ('database' IN NATURAL LANGUAGE MODE);
+-----+
| COUNT(*) |
+-----+
| 2 |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

You might find it quicker to rewrite the query as follows:

```
mysql> SELECT
    COUNT(IF(MATCH (title,body) AGAINST ('database' IN NATURAL LANGUAGE MODE), 1, NULL))
    AS count
    FROM articles;
+-----+
| count |
+-----+
| 2 |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.03 sec)
```

The first query does some extra work (sorting the results by relevance) but also can use an index lookup based on the WHERE clause. The index lookup might make the first query faster if the search matches few rows. The second query performs a full table scan, which might be faster than the index lookup if the search term was present in most rows.