

# Making Request to Database

To make a request to a local BLAST database do the following:

- Open *Tools BLAST+ BLAST+ Search*.

If there is a sequence opened you can also initiate the request to a local BLAST database from the *Sequence View*:

- Select the *Analyze Query with BLAST+* item in the context menu or in the *Actions* the main menu.

The *Request to local BLAST+ database* dialog will appear:

**Request to Local BLAST Database**

General options | Advanced options | Extension options

Select search:   Search for short, nearly exact matches

Expectation value:   Megablast

Best hits limit:   Both strands  Direct  Complement

Region:   -

Database path:

Base name for BLAST DB files:

▼ Save annotation(s) to

Existing document

New document

▼ Annotation parameters

Group name:

Description:

Number of CPUs being used:

The following general options are available:

*Select search* - here you should select the tool you would like to use. If the query sequence is a nucleotide sequence then *blastn*, *blastx* and *tblastx* items are available. For a protein sequence, the items are *blastp* and *tblastn*.

*Expectation value* - this option specifies the statistical significance threshold for reporting matches against database sequences. Lower expectation thresholds are more stringent, leading to fewer chance matches being reported.

*Culling limit* - the maximum number of hits that will be shown (not equal to a number of annotations). The maximum available number is 5000.

*Search for short, nearly exact matches* - automatically adjusts the word size and other parameters to improve results for short queries.

*Megablast* - select this option to compare queries with closely related sequences. It works best if the target percent identity is 95% or more, but it is very fast.

*Database path* - path to the database files.

*Base name for BLAST DB files* - the base name for the BLAST database files.

You can see the description of the annotation saving parameters [here](#).

The following advanced parameters are available:

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Request to Local BLAST Database". It has three tabs: "General options", "Advanced options", and "Extension options". The "Advanced options" tab is selected. It contains the following settings:

- Word size: 11
- Gap costs: 2 2
- Match scores: 1 -3
- Filters:
  - Low complexity filter
  - Human repeats filter
- Masks:
  - Mask for lookup table only
  - Mask lower case letters

At the bottom of the dialog are four buttons: "Help", "Cancel", "Search", and "Restore to default".

*Word size* - the size of the subsequence parameter for the initiated search.

*Gap costs* - costs to create and extend a gap in an alignment. Increasing the Gap costs will result in alignments which decrease the number of Gaps introduced.

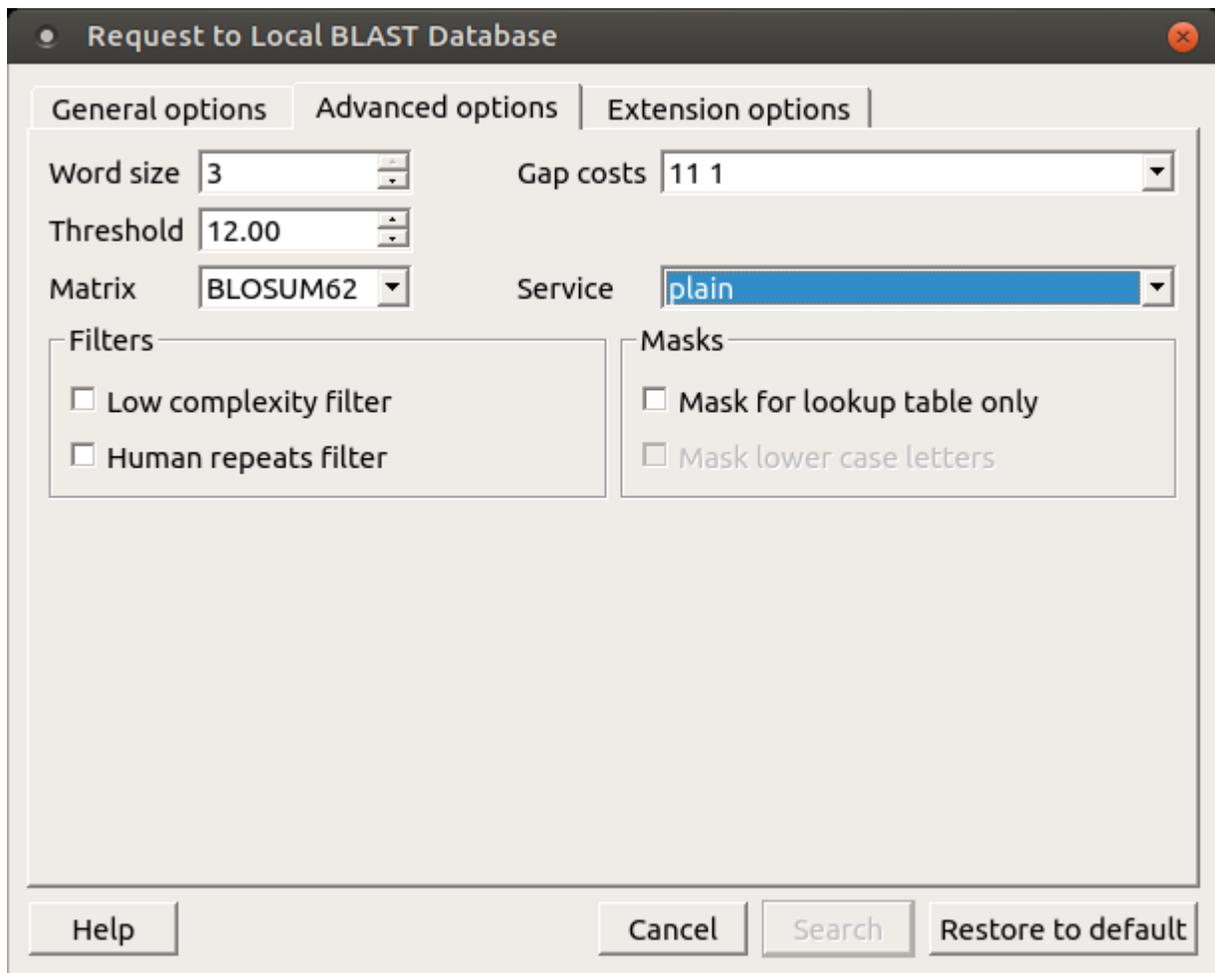
*Match scores* - reward and penalty for matching and mismatching bases.

*Filters* - filters for regions of low compositional complexity and repeat elements of the human's genome.

*Masks for lookup table only* — this option masks only for purposes of constructing the lookup table used by BLAST so that no hits are found based upon low-complexity sequence or repeats (if repeat filter is checked).

*Mask lower case letters* — with this option selected you can cut and paste a FASTA sequence in upper case characters and denote areas you would like filtered with lower case.

The view of the *Advanced options* tab depends on the selected search. For the *blastn* search, it looks like in the picture above. When the *blastx* search is selected in the general options, the view of the *Advanced options* tab is the following:



As you can see there is no *Match scores* option, but there are *Threshold*, *Matrix*, *Composition-based statistics* and *Service* options.

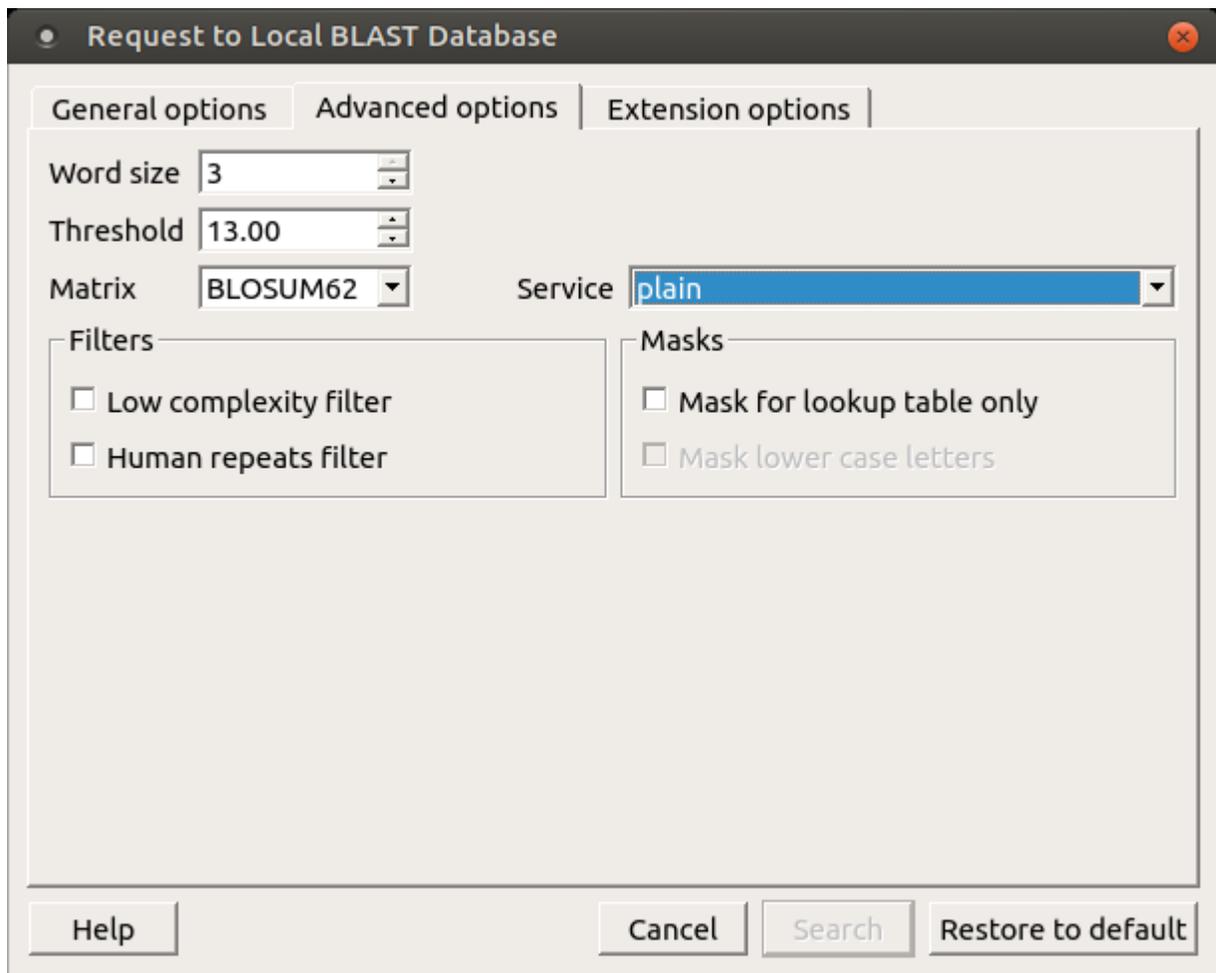
*Threshold* - threshold for extending hits.

*Matrix* — key element in evaluating the quality of pair-wise sequence alignment is the “substitution matrix”, which assigns a score for aligning any possible pair of residues.

*Service* — blastp service which needs to be performed: plain, psi or phi.

*Composition-based statistics* - composition-based statistics.

When the *tblastx* search is selected in the general options, the view of the *Advanced options* tab is the following:



The following extension options are available:

Request to Local BLAST Database

General options | **Advanced options** | Extension options

X dropoff value (in bits)

For gapped alignment	0
For ungapped extensions	7.00
For final gapped alignment	0

Multiple Hits Window Size: 40

Perform gapped alignment

Help Cancel Search Restore to default

*For gapped alignment* - X dropoff value (in bits) for gapped alignment.

*For ungapped alignment* - X dropoff value (in bits) for ungapped alignment.

*For final gapped alignment* - X dropoff value (in bits) for final gapped alignment.

*Multiple hits window size* - multiple hits window size.

*Perform gapped alignment* - performs gapped alignment.