**Recommended Usage:**

Consensus6 uses the intermediary alignments generated by the MUSCLE5 program as input. You can obtain the 16 intermediary alignments by using the following commands:

**./muscle.exe -align input.fasta -output stratified\_ensemble.efa -stratified**

This command generates a stratified ensemble file which contains all intermediary alignments. Then, run the following command:

**./muscle.exe -efa\_explode stratified\_ensemble.efa**

This command generates 16 different intermediate files (abc.0, abc.1, abc.2, abc.3, acb.0, acb.1, acb.2, acb.3, bca.0, bca.1, bca.2, bca.3, none.0, none.1, none.2, none.3)

We recommend placing all 16 files into a directory (lets say you name it msa\_directory)

Then, run the following command:

**python cloak.py /path/to/your/msa\_directory**

Running this command generates a file called msa\_directory\_result.fasta, which contains the filtered alignment.

The result fasta file is generated in the same location from which the python script is run.