CSC 314, Bioinformatics Lab #2: DNA and Complementary Base Pairing

DNA is a double stranded molecule composed of complementary base pairs. If the sequence of one strand is known, the *complementary sequence* (*complement*) can be determined based on the following rules: adenine (A) binds with thymine (T) and vice-versa; and cytosine (C) binds with guanine (G) and vice-versa.

If a sequence is read from its 5' to 3' end, its *reverse* is the same sequence read from its 3' to 5' end (and viceversa).

The *reverse-complement* of a DNA sequence is the reverse of its complement.

1. Find the specified sequences based on the sequence below. <u>Note that your answers must include labels for the 5' and 3' ends.</u>

5'-TAGATGCAT-3'

- a) Find the reverse sequence
- b) Find the complement of the original sequence
- c) Find the reverse-complement of the original sequence
- d) If the original sequence (5'-TAGATGCAT-3') was an RNA sequence instead of a DNA sequence, what would its sequence be?
- 2. Write a Python program that prompts the user to enter a DNA sequence, from its 5' to 3' end, and then outputs the following:
 - a. The sequence entered by the user (formatted for invalid characters see below).
 - b. The length of the sequence
 - c. The complementary sequence (don't forget to label the 5' and 3' ends)
 - d. The reverse complement (don't forget to label the 5' and 3' ends)

Note: Your program should add the 5' and 3' labels, but these labels should not be entered by the user, nor stored by the program. For example, a user entering the sequence in question (1) would enter TAGATGCAT and the program would output 5'-TAGATGCAT-3'. Your program should also work for sequences containing either lower- or uppercase letters. This perhaps is most easily accomplished by converting the user's sequence to lowercase or uppercase.

For parts (b) - (d), if a character in the sequence is not valid (i.e., is not a T, C, G, or A), then the invalid character should be replaced with a '-'.

3. Respond to the questions posted on Piazza, related to the Implications of Cheap Genomic Sequencing.