INFILE statement

As illustrated in the previous class, you might have to type the data into SAS yourself by using CARDS. But chances are that, when you use SAS to do a project, the relevant data is stored in a file outside the SAS, such as floppy disk or hard disk. It could be either an ASCII(text) file or other database file. In this case, it's not necessary to copy the whole file right after the CARDS statement (sometimes you couldn't even do this.)

Let us assume all data files encountered are text files (in Windows, it has .txt or .dat extension). Take a look at a SAS program example:

```
DATA One;
INFILE 'D:\Bigfile.txt';
INPUT Bank $ Acctnum Money;
        /* CARDS statement is no longer needed here;*/
RUN;
PROC PRINT data=One;
RUN;
```

Note: The INFILE statement is used instead of the CARDS statement.

INFILE statement:
Use: tell SAS where to read the data.
Syntax:
            INFILE 'PATH\filename.txt';

            * Goal: tell SAS where to read the data.
            * Complete pathnames are like:
                        A:\homework1.txt,
                        C:\Windows\Desktop\guess.dat.

            * Some options:
DELIMITER --- It is useful for files whose fields are delimited with special characters like comma, semicolon, instead of spaces.
This option can be abbreviated as 'dlm'.

Example:

        Assume the file age.txt at your default folder contains the following lines:

              Mary,14
              Jim,22
              Sue,28
              Caroline,25

In order to create a SAS dataset from it, we can use the following SAS program:

```
FILENAME roster 'age.txt'; /* FILENAME roster 'stat390/age.txt';*/
DATA two;
INFILE roster delimiter=',';      tells SAS the data is separated by comma
INPUT name $ age;
RUN;
PROC PRINT data=two;
RUN;
```