FIGURE 1.1. The objects to be classified are first sensed by a transducer (camera), whose signals are preprocessed. Next the features are extracted and finally the classification is emitted, here either "salmon" or "sea bass." Although the information flow is often chosen to be from the source to the classifier, some systems employ information flow in which earlier levels of processing can be altered based on the tentative or preliminary response in later levels (gray arrows). Yet others combine two or more stages into a unified step, such as simultaneous segmentation and feature extraction. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
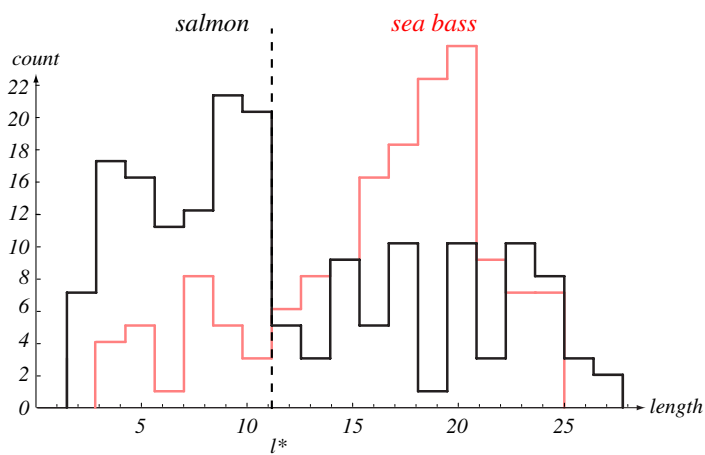
FIGURE 1.2. Histograms for the length feature for the two categories. No single threshold value of the length will serve to unambiguously discriminate between the two categories; using length alone, we will have some errors. The value marked l^* will lead to the smallest number of errors, on average. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
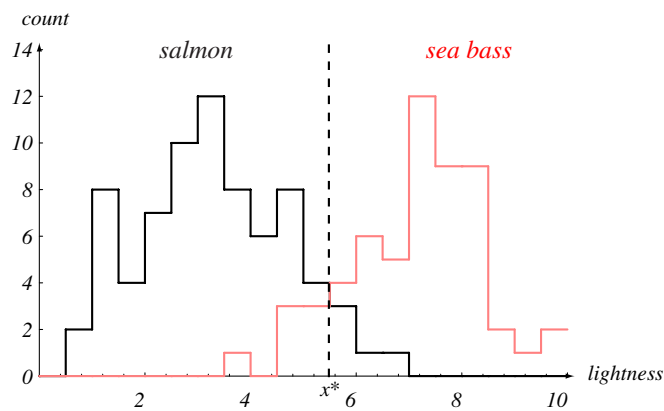
FIGURE 1.3. Histograms for the lightness feature for the two categories. No single threshold value x^* (decision boundary) will serve to unambiguously discriminate between the two categories; using lightness alone, we will have some errors. The value x^* marked will lead to the smallest number of errors, on average. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
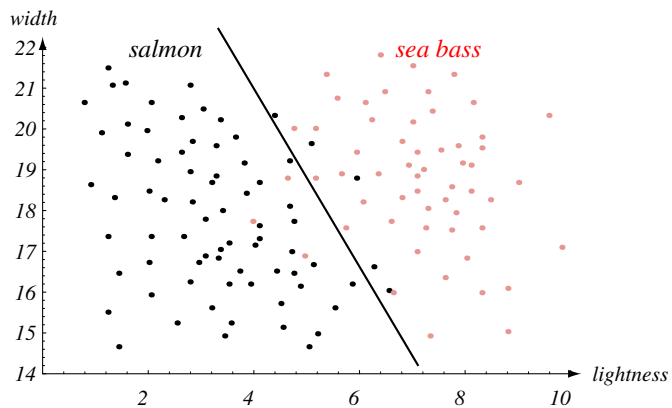
FIGURE 1.4. The two features of lightness and width for sea bass and salmon. The dark line could serve as a decision boundary of our classifier. Overall classification error on the data shown is lower than if we use only one feature as in Fig. 1.3, but there will still be some errors. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
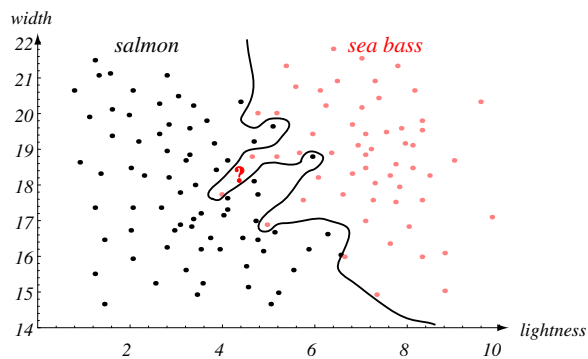
FIGURE 1.5. Overly complex models for the fish will lead to decision boundaries that are complicated. While such a decision may lead to perfect classification of our training samples, it would lead to poor performance on future patterns. The novel test point marked **?** is evidently most likely a salmon, whereas the complex decision boundary shown leads it to be classified as a sea bass. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
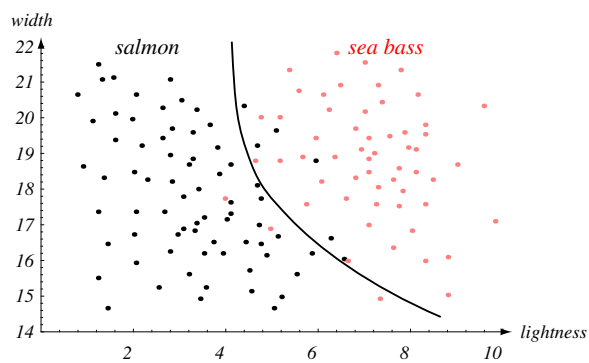
FIGURE 1.6. The decision boundary shown might represent the optimal tradeoff between performance on the training set and simplicity of classifier, thereby giving the highest accuracy on new patterns. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
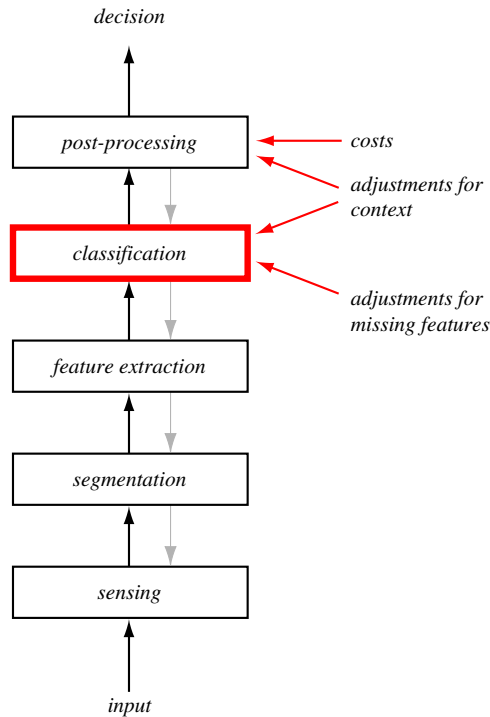
FIGURE 1.7. Many pattern recognition systems can be partitioned into components such as the ones shown here. A sensor converts images or sounds or other physical inputs into signal data. The segmentor isolates sensed objects from the background or from other objects. A feature extractor measures object properties that are useful for classification. The classifier uses these features to assign the sensed object to a category. Finally, a post processor can take account of other considerations, such as the effects of context and the costs of errors, to decide on the appropriate action. Although this description stresses a one-way or "bottom-up" flow of data, some systems employ feedback from higher levels back down to lower levels (gray arrows). From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
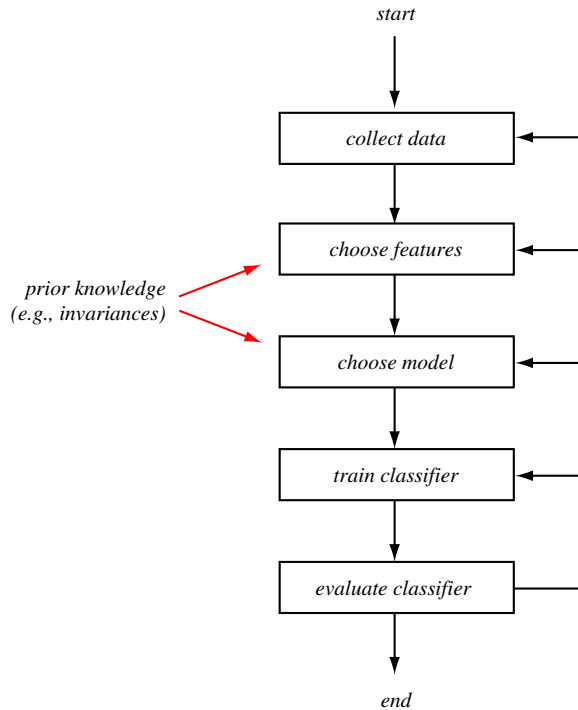
FIGURE 1.8. The design of a pattern recognition system involves a design cycle similar to the one shown here. Data must be collected, both to train and to test the system. The characteristics of the data impact both the choice of appropriate discriminating features and the choice of models for the different categories. The training process uses some or all of the data to determine the system parameters. The results of evaluation may call for repetition of various steps in this process in order to obtain satisfactory results. From: Richard O. Duda, Peter E. Hart, and David G. Stork, *Pattern Classification*. Copyright © 2001 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.