

As a simple example, consider Fig. 7.11, where the distributions of a single feature are represented. Note that the populations overlap. What this means is that some of the data from population  $c_1$  will fall close to those of population  $c_2$ , and vice versa. One approach to developing a rule is based on the overlap between the distributions. Suppose, for example, that the rule we decide to use selects population  $c_1$  if  $x \leq A$  and population  $c_2$  if  $x > A$ . Then sometimes the decision will be incorrect. Let  $P(c_1|c_2)$  be the probability that population  $c_1$  is selected when in fact the true population is  $c_2$ . This represents the probability of an incorrect decision, the probability of misclassification for group  $c_2$ . There is a similar probability for group  $c_1$ ,  $P(c_2|c_1)$ .