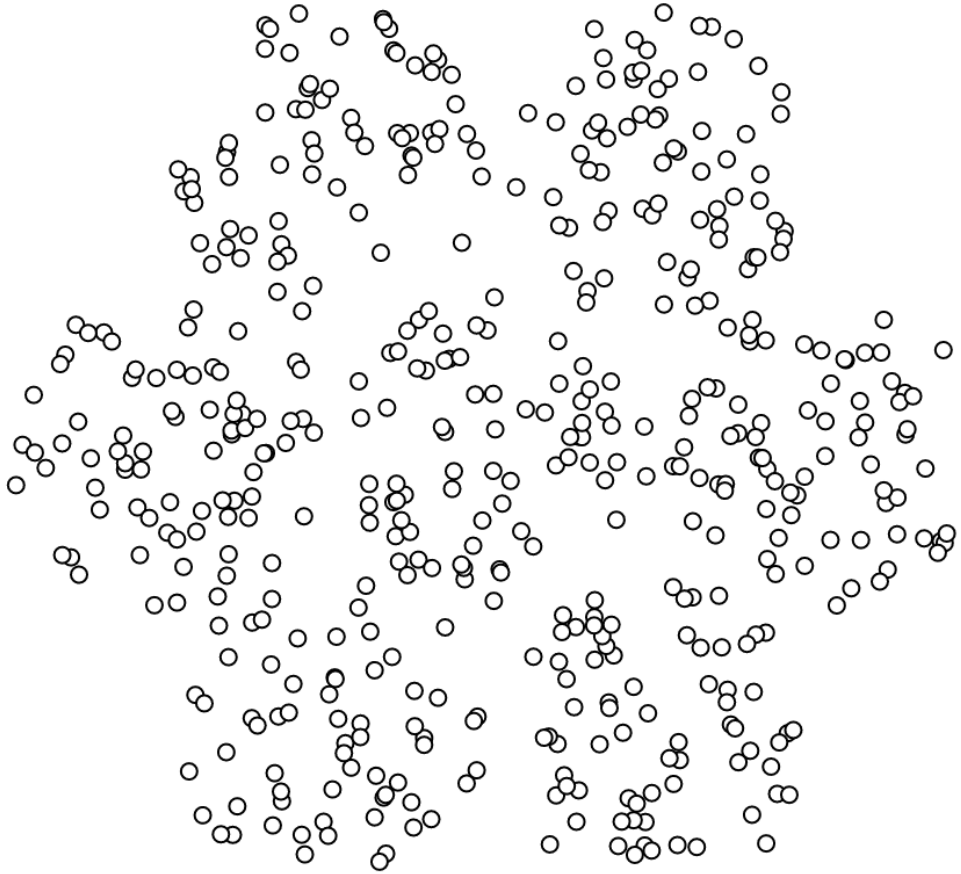
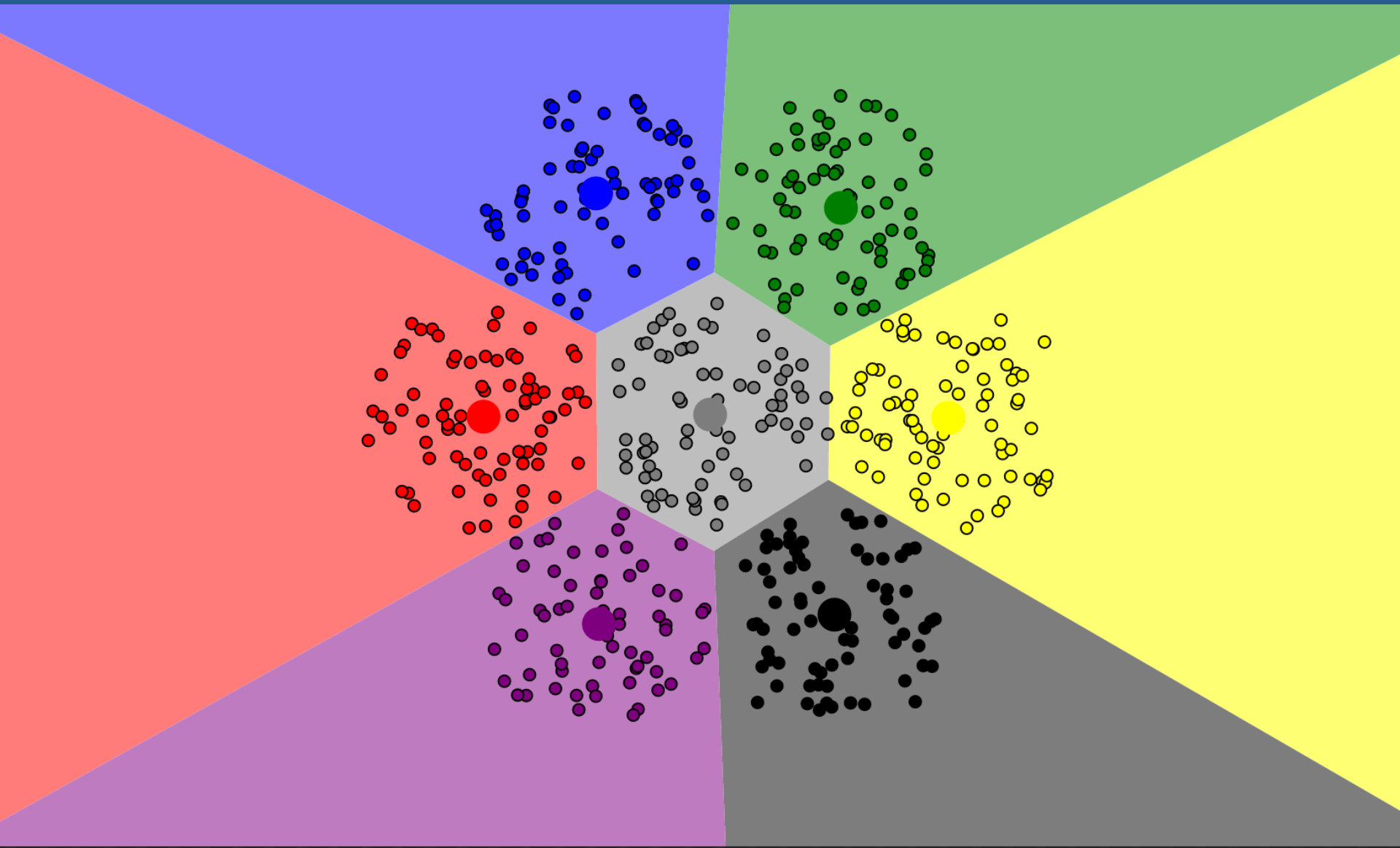
k-means clustering

Method to automatically separate data sets into distinct groups.

Clustering example



Clustering example

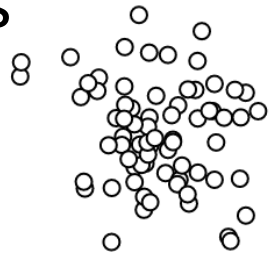


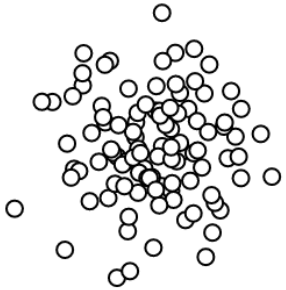
k-means clustering algorithm

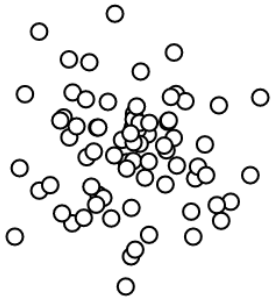
1. Start with *k* randomly chosen means
2. Color data points by the shortest distance to any mean
3. Move means to centroid position of each group of points
4. Repeat from step 2 until convergence

Algorithm example (k = 3)

Step 1: Choose 3 means at random

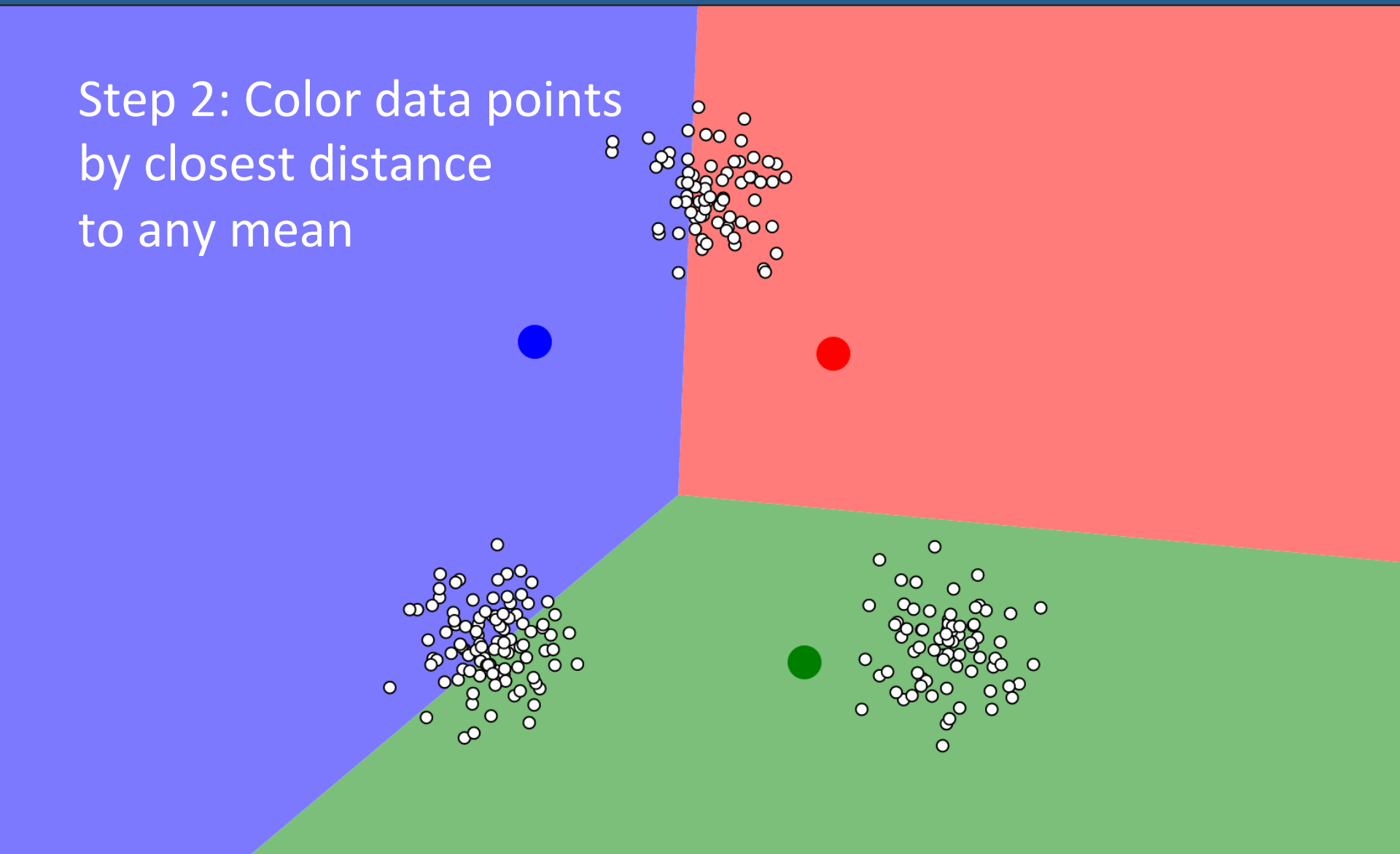






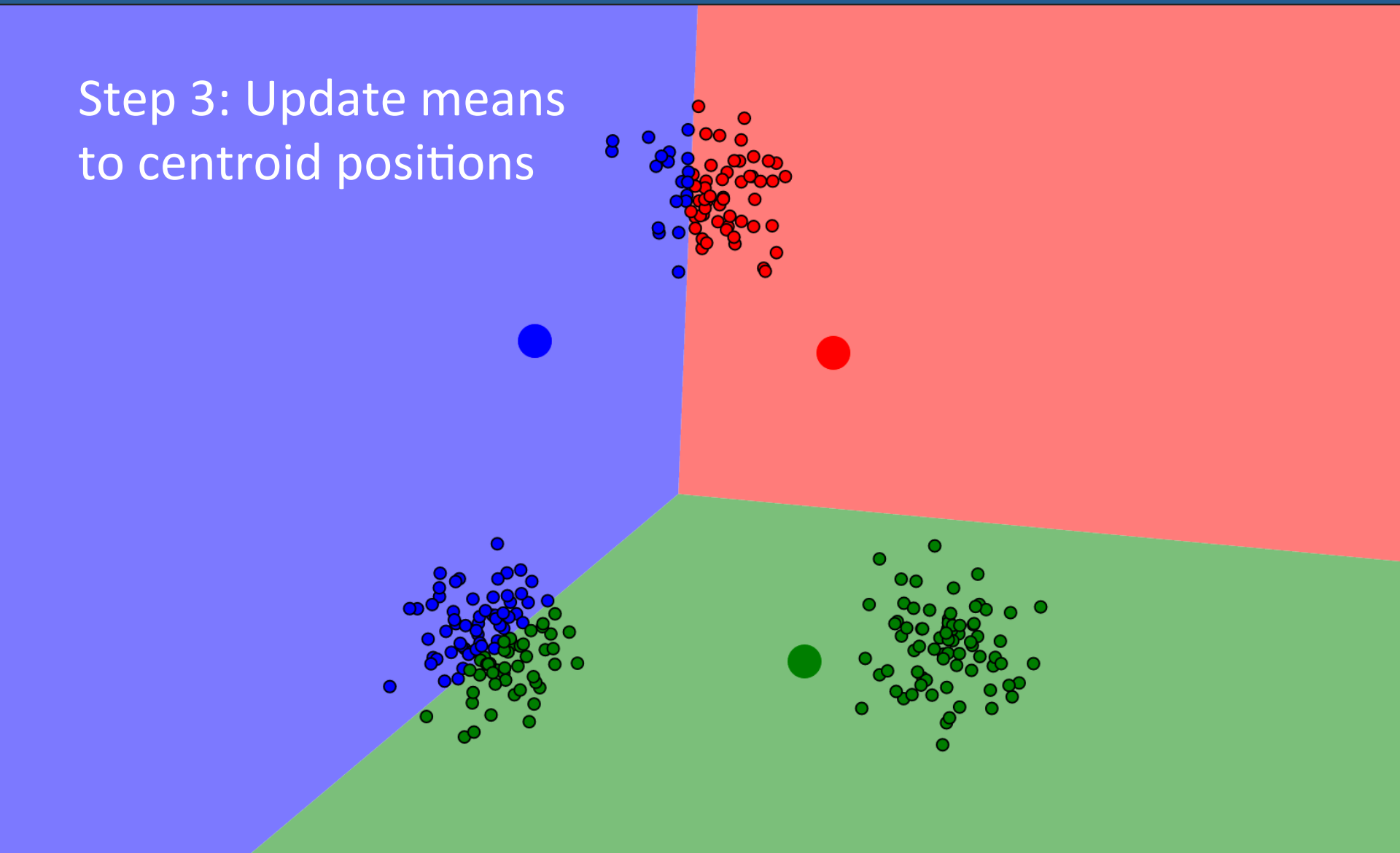
Algorithm example ($k = 3$)

Step 2: Color data points by closest distance to any mean



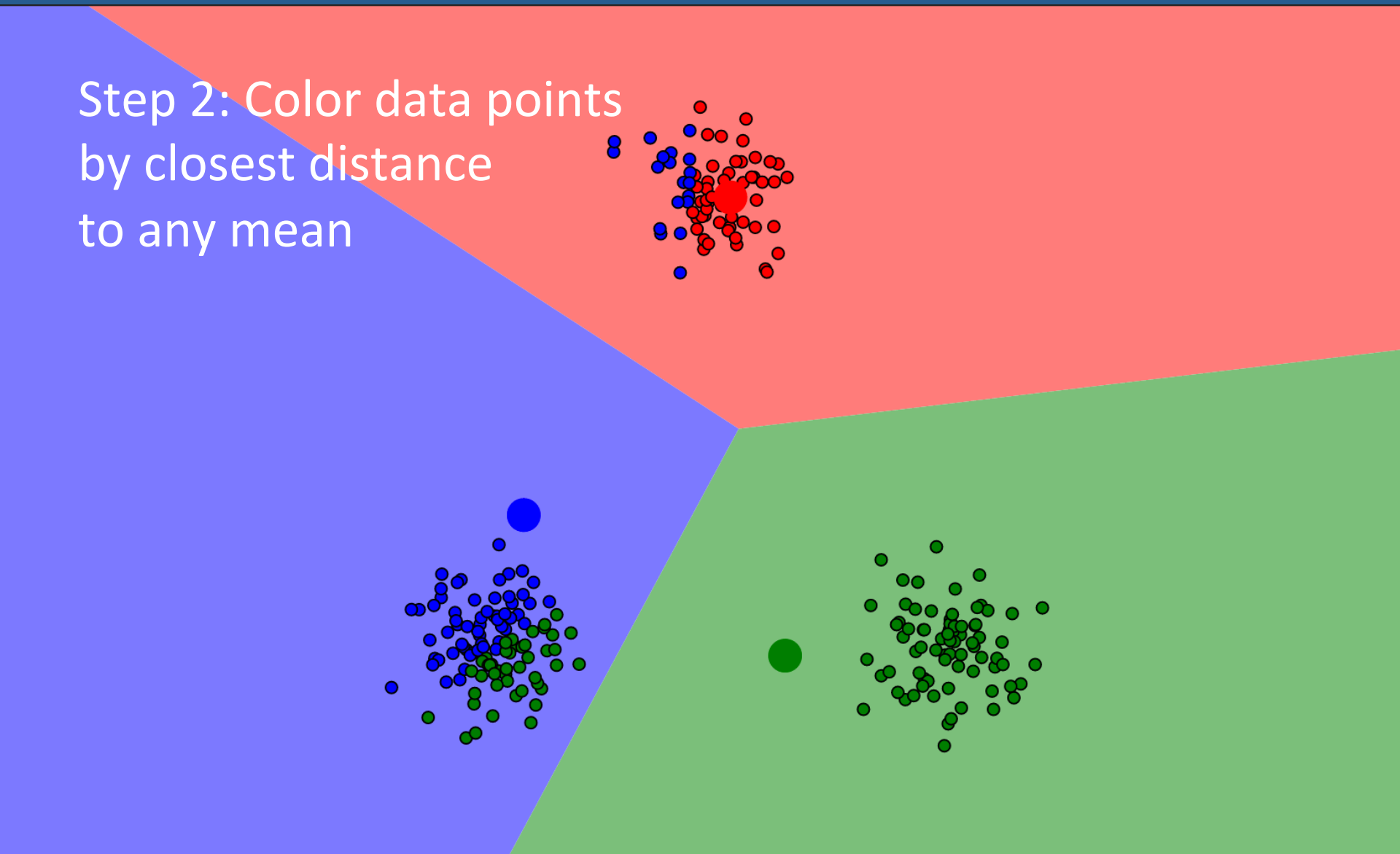
Algorithm example (k = 3)

Step 3: Update means to centroid positions



Algorithm example ($k = 3$)

Step 2: Color data points by closest distance to any mean



Algorithm example (k = 3)

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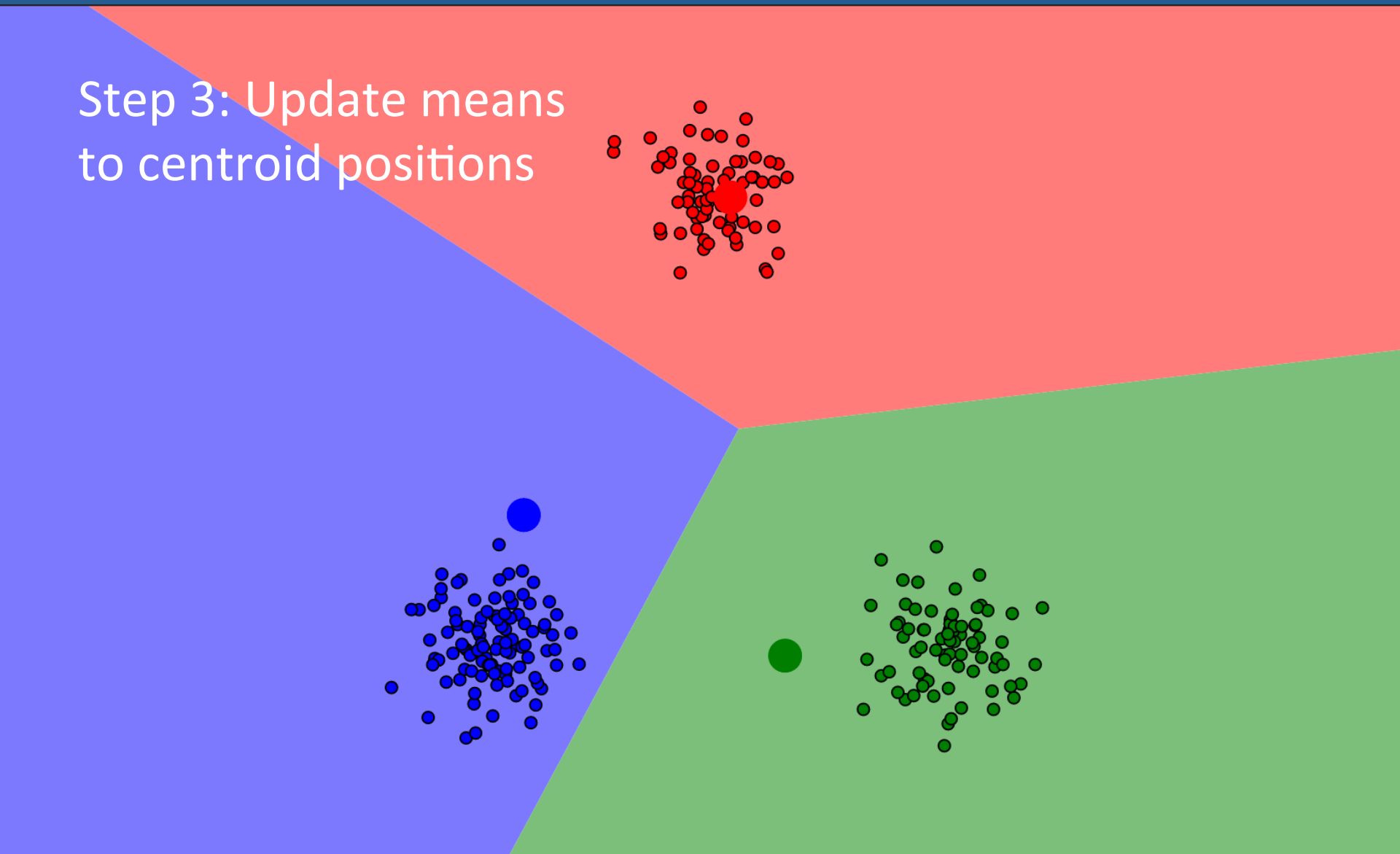
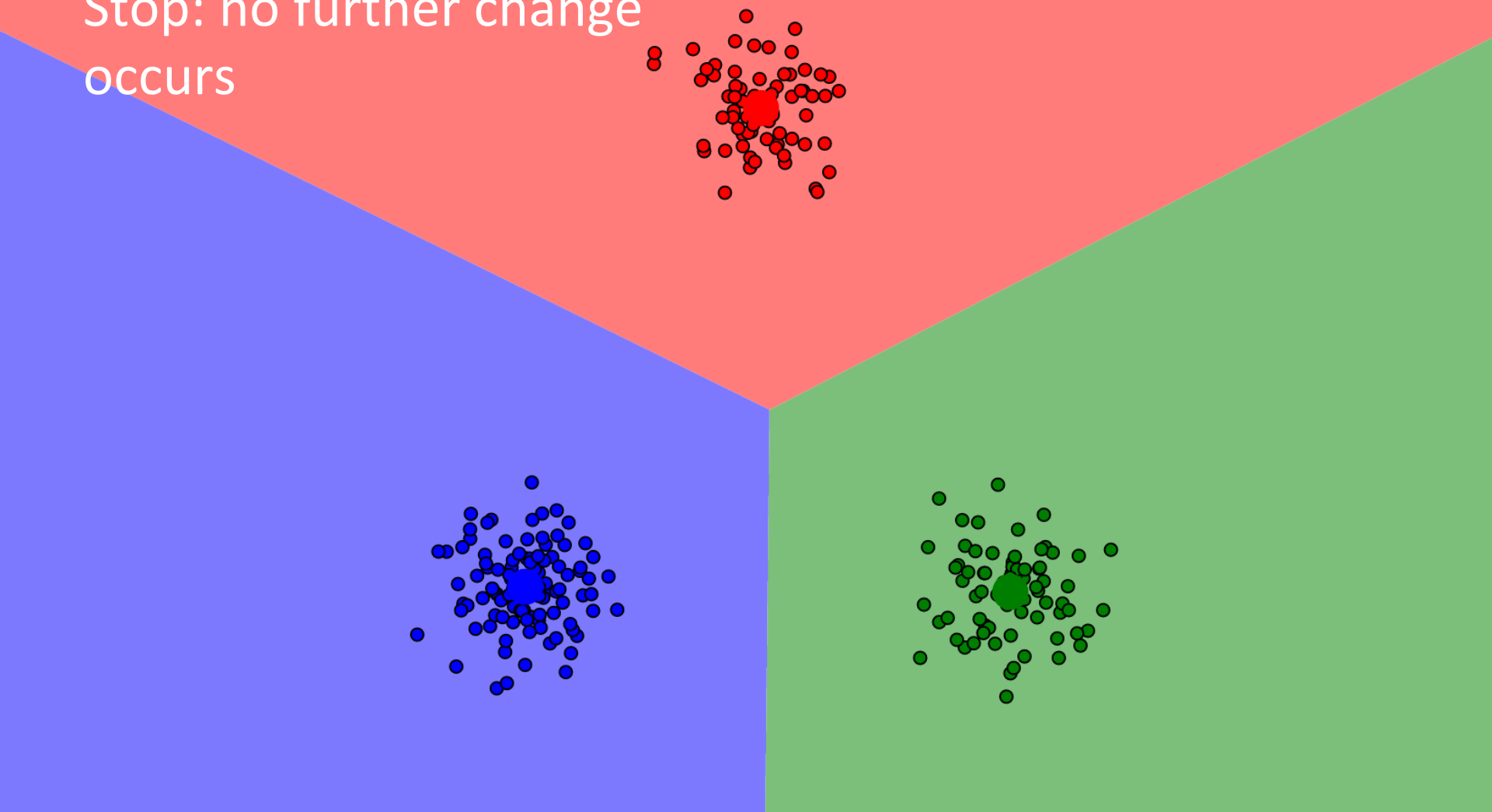


Algorithm example (k = 3)

Stop: no further change occurs



Now try it yourself

http://www.naftaliharris.com/blog/visualizing-k-means-clustering/

k-means in R (example: iris data set)

```
iris %>% select(-Species) %>% # remove Species column
  kmeans(centers=3) ->        # do k-means clustering
                              # with 3 centers
  km                          # store result as “km”
```

k-means in R (example: iris data set)

```
> km
K-means clustering with 3 clusters of sizes 38, 62, 50

Cluster means:
  Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width
1     6.850000    3.073684     5.742105    2.071053
2     5.901613    2.748387     4.393548    1.433871
3     5.006000    3.428000     1.462000    0.246000

Clustering vector:
  [1] 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
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[149] 1 2

Within cluster sum of squares by cluster:
[1] 23.87947 39.82097 15.15100
 (between_SS / total_SS =  88.4 %)
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Cluster means: the location of the final centroids

k-means in R (example: iris data set)

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Clustering vector: provides the cluster to which each observation belongs

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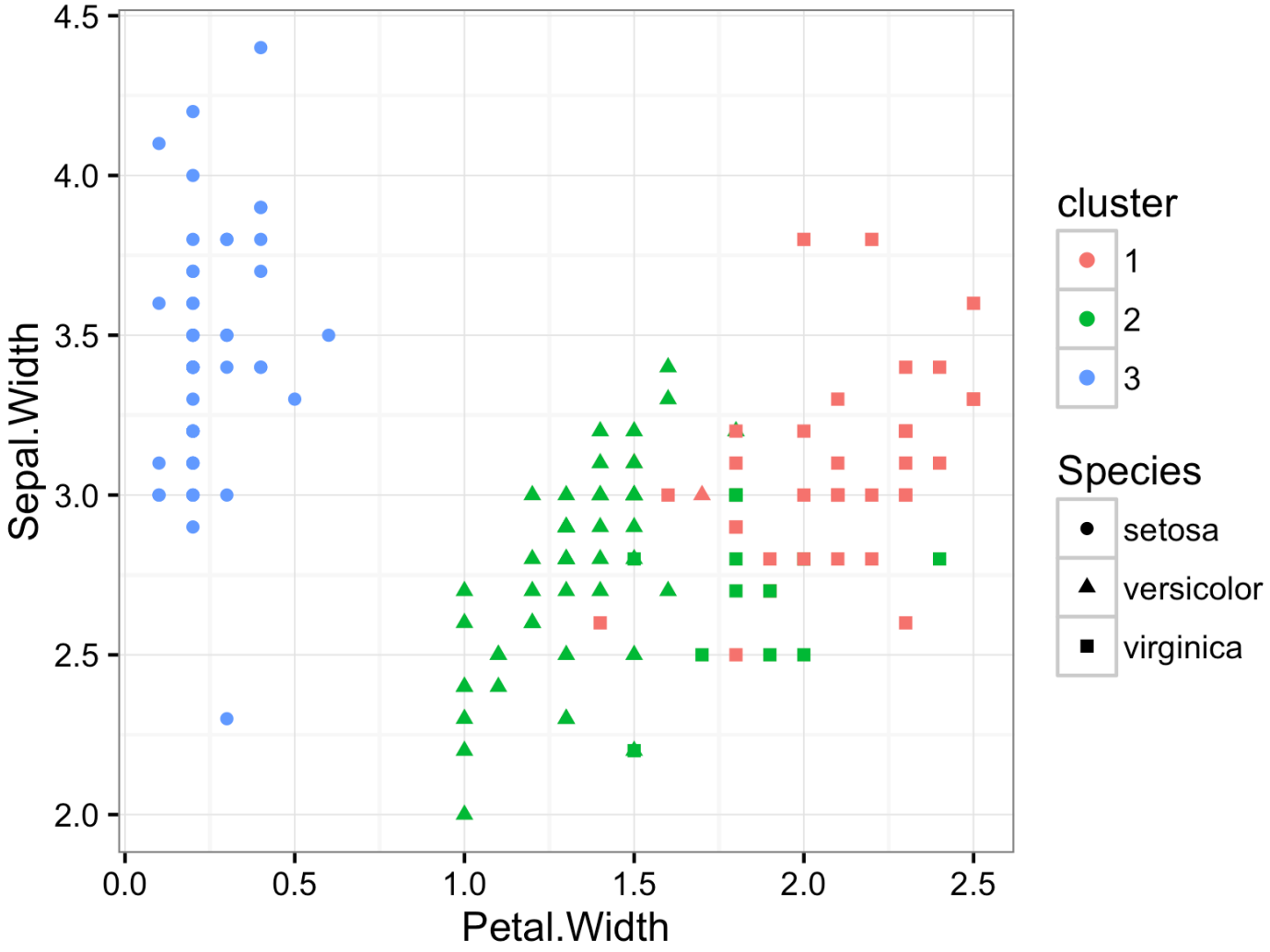
Within cluster sum of squares: measures quality of the clustering (lower is better)

The clusters mostly but not exactly recapitulate the species assignments



How do we determine the right number of means *k*?

- Many different methods, see e.g.: http://stackoverflow.com/a/15376462/4975218
- Simplest: plot within-sum-of-squares against *k*

A bend in within-sum-of-squares indicates the ideal number of clusters