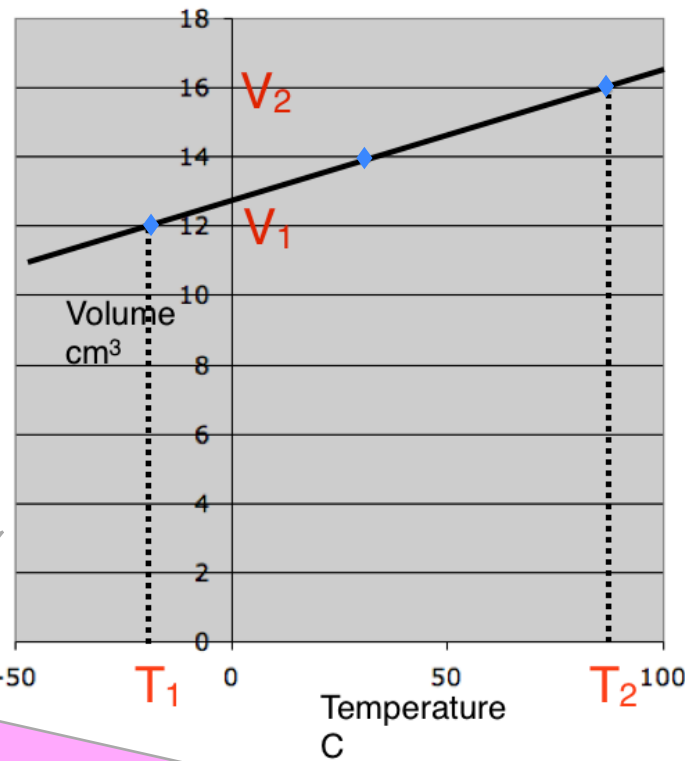


## Charles's Law

Like Boyle's Law, when Charles's Law was written it was empirical. It states that:

**The volume a a fixed mass of gas is directly proportional to the temperature providing that the pressure remains constant.**



Careful experiments confirm that:  
 $V \propto T$  or inserting a constant of proportionality  
 $V = \text{constant} \times T$

$$\text{since } \frac{V_1}{T_1} = \text{constant}$$

$$\text{then } \frac{V_1}{T_1} = \frac{V_2}{T_2} \text{ constant}$$

When we use this equation the temperature must be in Kelvin.

The kelvin temperature is based on absolute zero.

The kelvin temperature equals the celcius temperature plus 273.

e.g.  
 $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C} = 273\text{K}$   
 $27\text{ }^\circ\text{C} = 300\text{K}$   
 $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C} = 373\text{K}$

**Charles's Law**  
**The Fizzics Organisation**  
[www.fizzics.org](http://www.fizzics.org) [www.fizzics.co.uk](http://www.fizzics.co.uk)

When a gas is heated the energy is contained in the increasing kinetic energy of the molecules. Those molecules hit the surfaces harder and therefore exert a greater force and a greater pressure. If the pressure is to be kept constant then the gas must expand so that the impacts are less frequent, therefore, at a constant pressure the volume is directly proportional to the rise in temperature.

This idea can be extended to estimate a value of absolute zero temperature - see further video and notes.