

Section 2.1 C++11

auto Variables

Nonetheless, even with this retroactive fix, the effects of the deduction rules when applied to braced-initializer lists might be puzzling. In particular, `std::initializer_list` is deduced when **copy initialization** is used instead of **direct initialization**, which requires including `<initializer_list>`:

```

auto x1 = 1;           // int
auto x2(1);           // "
auto x3{1};           // "

#include <initializer_list> // std::initializer_list
auto x4 = {1};         // OK, deduced as std::initializer_list<int>

auto x5{1, 2};        // Error, direct-list-init requires exactly 1 element.
auto x6 = {1, 2};     // OK, deduced as std::initializer_list<int>

```

Deducing built-in arrays is problematic

Deducing built-in array types using **auto** presents multiple challenges. First, declaring an array of **auto** is ill formed:

```

auto arr1[] = {1, 2}; // Error, array of auto is not allowed.
auto arr2[2] = {1, 2}; // Error, array of auto is not allowed.

```

Second, if the array bound is not specified, either the program does not compile or `std::initializer_list` is deduced instead of a built-in array:

```

#include <initializer_list> // std::initializer_list
auto arr3 = {1, 2}; // OK, deduced as std::initializer_list<int>
auto arr4{1, 2}; // Error, direct-list init requires exactly 1 element.

```

Finally, attempting to circumvent this deficiency by using an alias template (see Section 1.1. “**using** Aliases” on page 133) will result in code that compiles but has undefined behavior:

```

template <typename TYPE, std::size_t SIZE>
using BuiltInArray = TYPE[SIZE];

auto arr5 = BuiltInArray<int, 2>{1, 2};
// Bug, taking the address of a temporary array

```

The type deduced for `arr5` is `int*` because array-to-pointer conversion is performed prior to deduction for nonreference types. ~~Binding a pointer to a temporary array~~ does not extend its lifetime, and the array is destroyed at the end of the full expression. Thus, any attempt to access elements of `arr5` will lead to undefined behavior. Furthermore, even if this trick were to work, such code would also almost entirely defeat the purpose of **auto** since neither the array element’s type nor the array’s bound would be deduced.