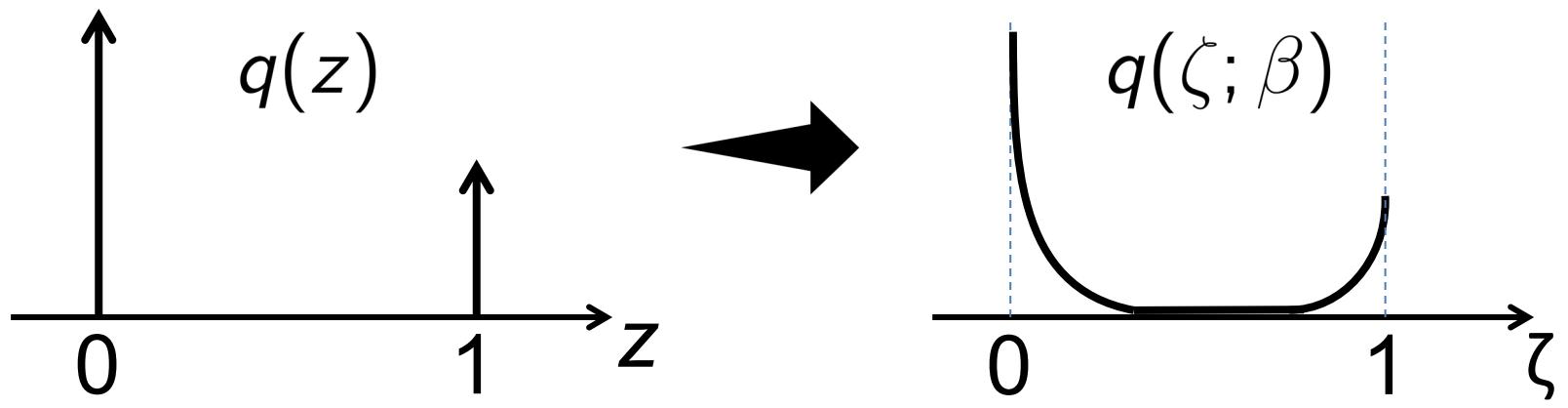


# DVAE#: Discrete Variational Autoencoders with Relaxed Boltzmann Priors

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## MOTIVATION

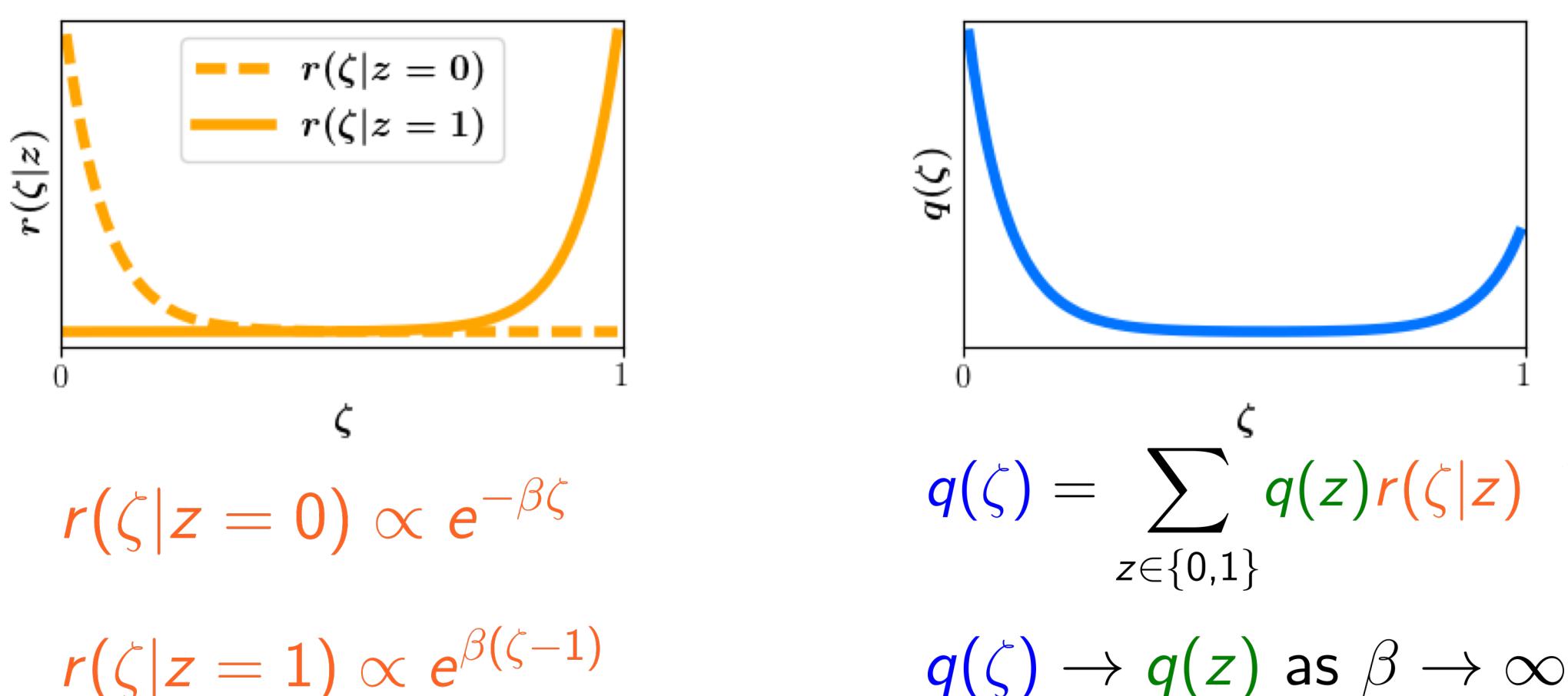
- Binary latent variable models have applications in topic modeling, semi-supervised learning, reinforcement learning
- Boltzmann machine as powerful distributions on binary vars.
- Variational autoencoders with Boltzmann priors:  
 $\log p(x) \geq \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} [\log p(x|z)] - \text{KL}(q(z|x)||p(z))$
- Reparameterization doesn't work for binary variables
- Continuous relaxation of binary random:



- We propose continuous relaxations for Boltzmann priors

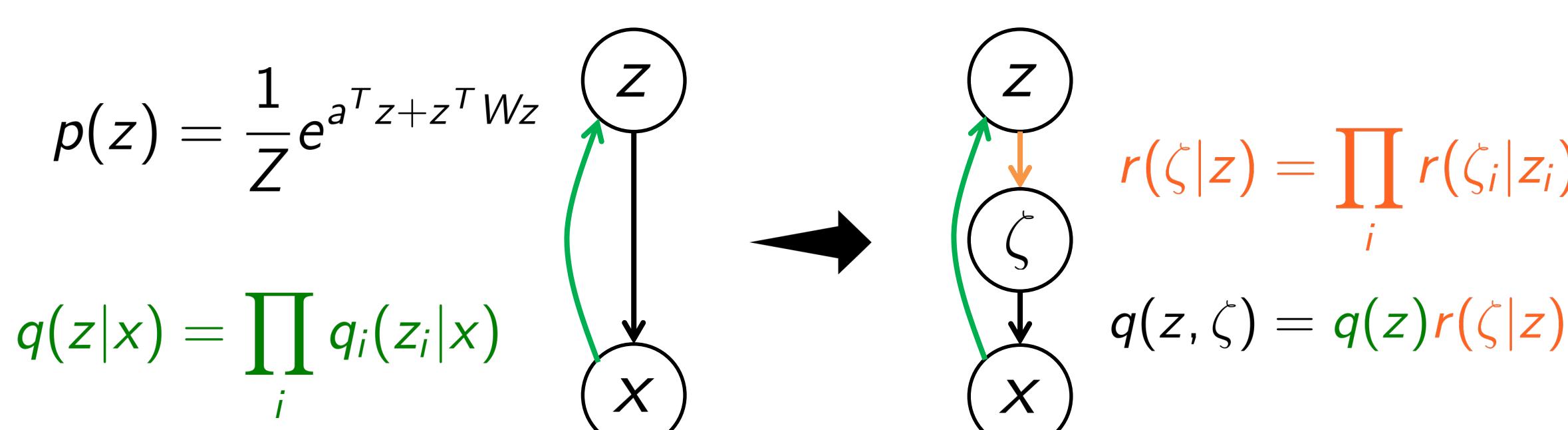
## OVERLAPPING TRANSFORMATIONS

- Use a mixture of two overlapping transformations:



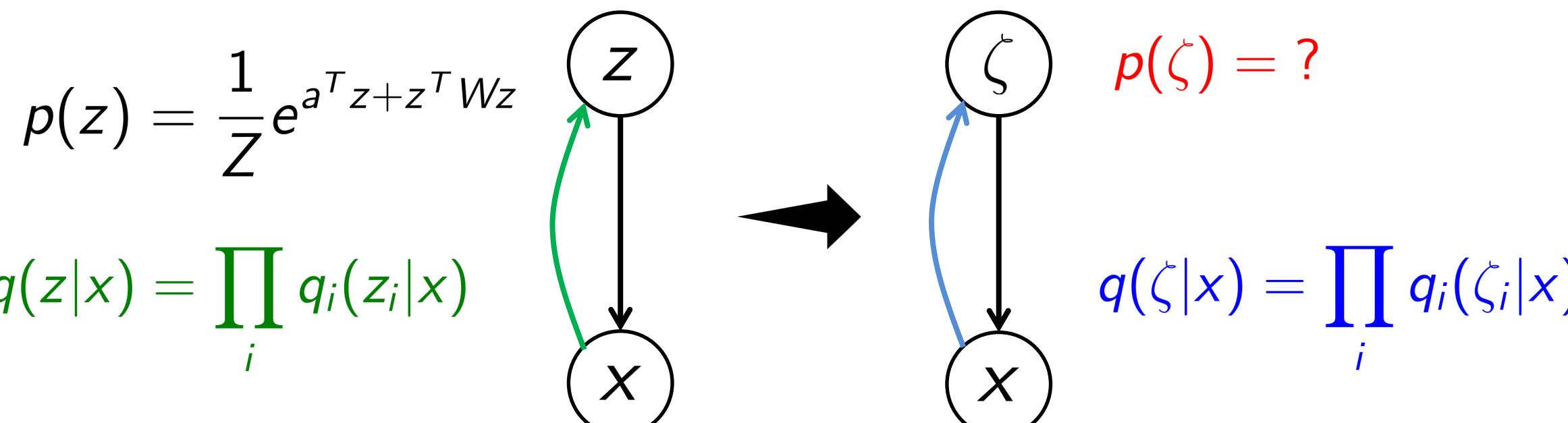
- Inverse CDF of  $q(\zeta)$  has a closed form for mixture of exponential and mixture of logistic distributions

## UNDIRECTED PRIOR – ELBO (DVAE++)



$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(x) &= \mathbb{E}_{q(\zeta|x)} [\log p(x|\zeta)] - \text{KL}(q(z, \zeta|x)||p(z, \zeta)) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{q(\zeta|x)} [\log p(x|\zeta)] + H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{q(\zeta|x)} [H(q(z|x, \zeta)||p(z))]\end{aligned}$$

## UNDIRECTED PRIOR – IW BOUND



$$\log p(x) \geq \mathcal{L}_K(x) = \mathbb{E}_{\zeta^{(k)} \sim q(\zeta|x)} \left[ \log \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{p(\zeta^{(k)}) p(x|\zeta^{(k)})}{q(\zeta^{(k)}|x)} \right) \right] \geq \mathcal{L}_1(x)$$

## OVERLAPPING RELAXATIONS

- Factorial overlapping transformation:  $r(\zeta|z) = \prod_i r(\zeta_i|z_i)$
- Overlapping relaxation of Boltzmann machines:

$$\begin{aligned}p(\zeta) &= \sum_z p(z, \zeta) = \sum_z p(z)r(\zeta|z) \\ \log p(\zeta) &= \log \left( \sum_z p(z)r(\zeta|z) \right) = \log \left( \sum_z e^{-E_\theta(z) + b(\zeta)^T z + C(\zeta)} \right) - \log Z_\theta\end{aligned}$$

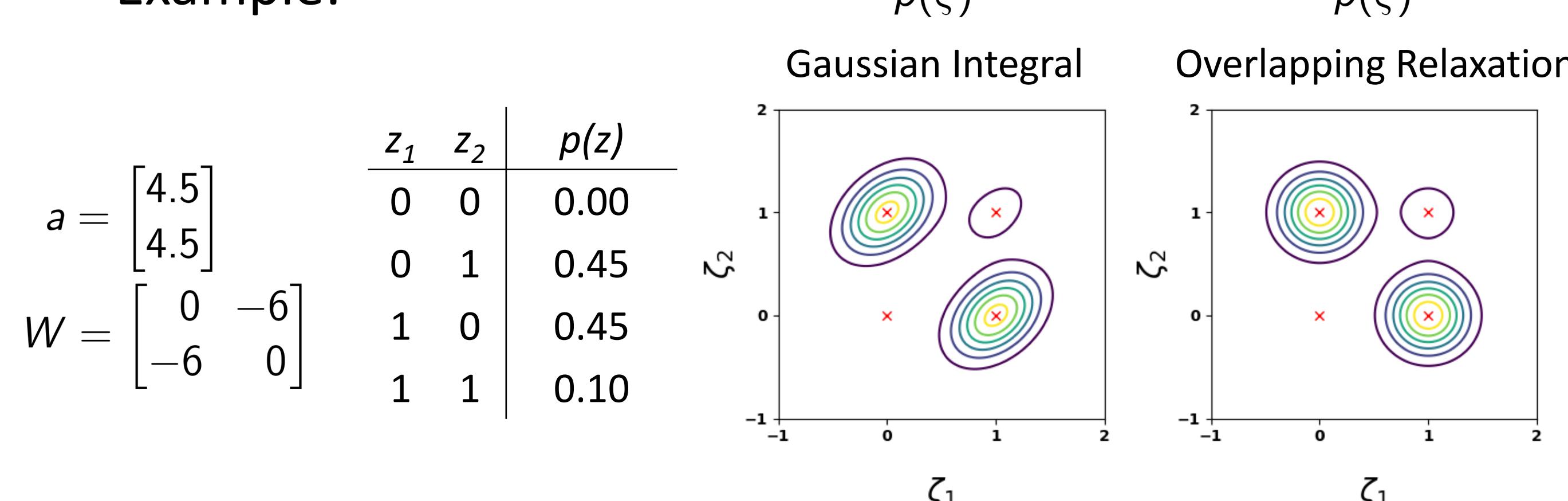
- A mean-field distribution approximates the value and gradient of the first term

## GAUSSIAN INTEGRAL RELAXATION

- The Gaussian integral trick:  $r(\zeta|z) = \mathcal{N}(\zeta|z, (W + \beta I)^{-1})$
- The pairwise terms on  $z$  are removed in the joint:

$$p(z, \zeta) \propto e^{-\frac{1}{2} \zeta^T (W + \beta I) \zeta + z^T (W + \beta I) \zeta + (a - \frac{1}{2} \beta \mathbf{1})^T z}$$

- $z$  is marginalized out easily
- Example:

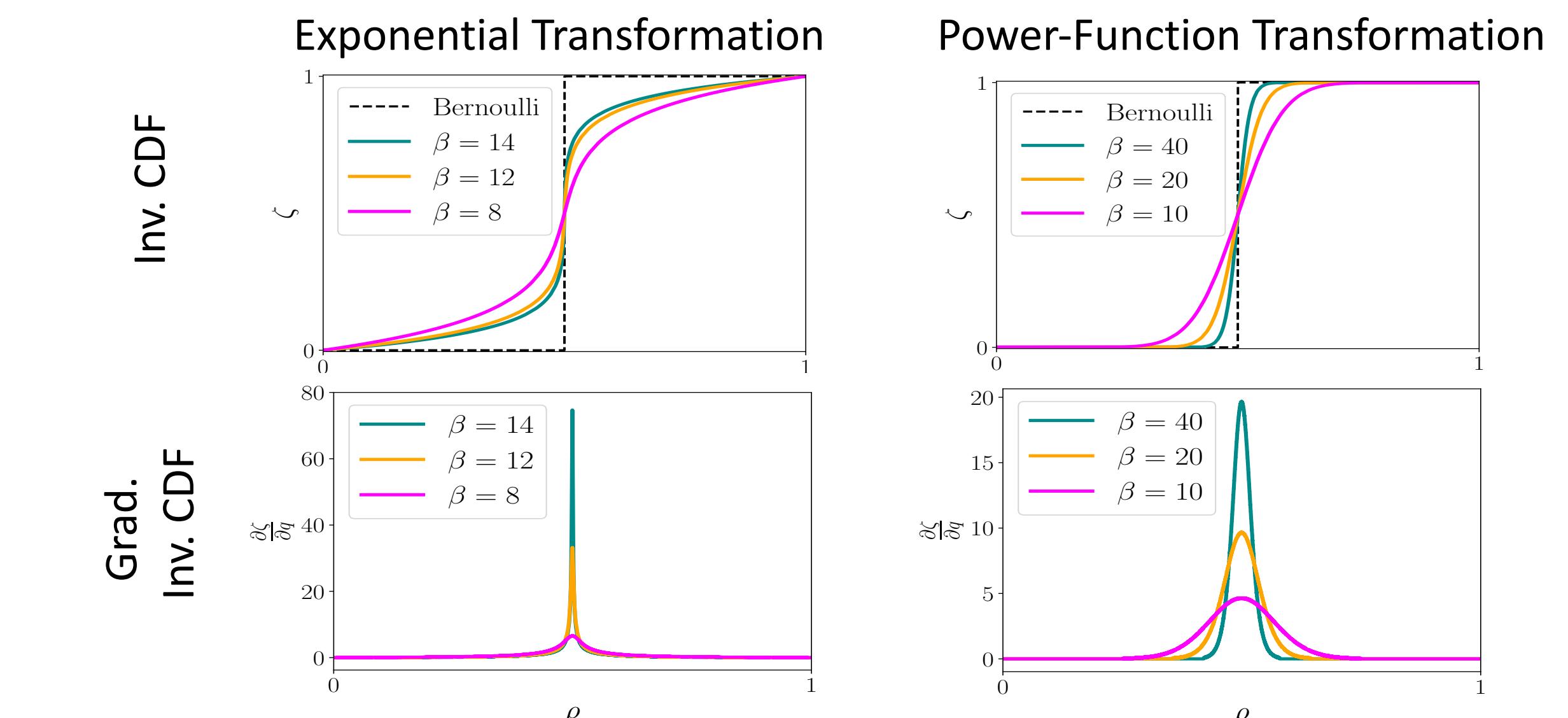


## GENERALIZED OVERLAPPING TRANSFORMATIONS

- Reparameterized sampling from  $q(\zeta|x)$  required computing inverse CDF in DVAE++

$$\begin{aligned}q(\zeta|x) &= (1 - q)r(\zeta|z = 0) + qr(\zeta|z = 1) \\ \text{CDF}_{q(\zeta|x)}(\zeta) &= (1 - q)R(\zeta|z = 0) + qR(\zeta|z = 1) = \rho\end{aligned}$$

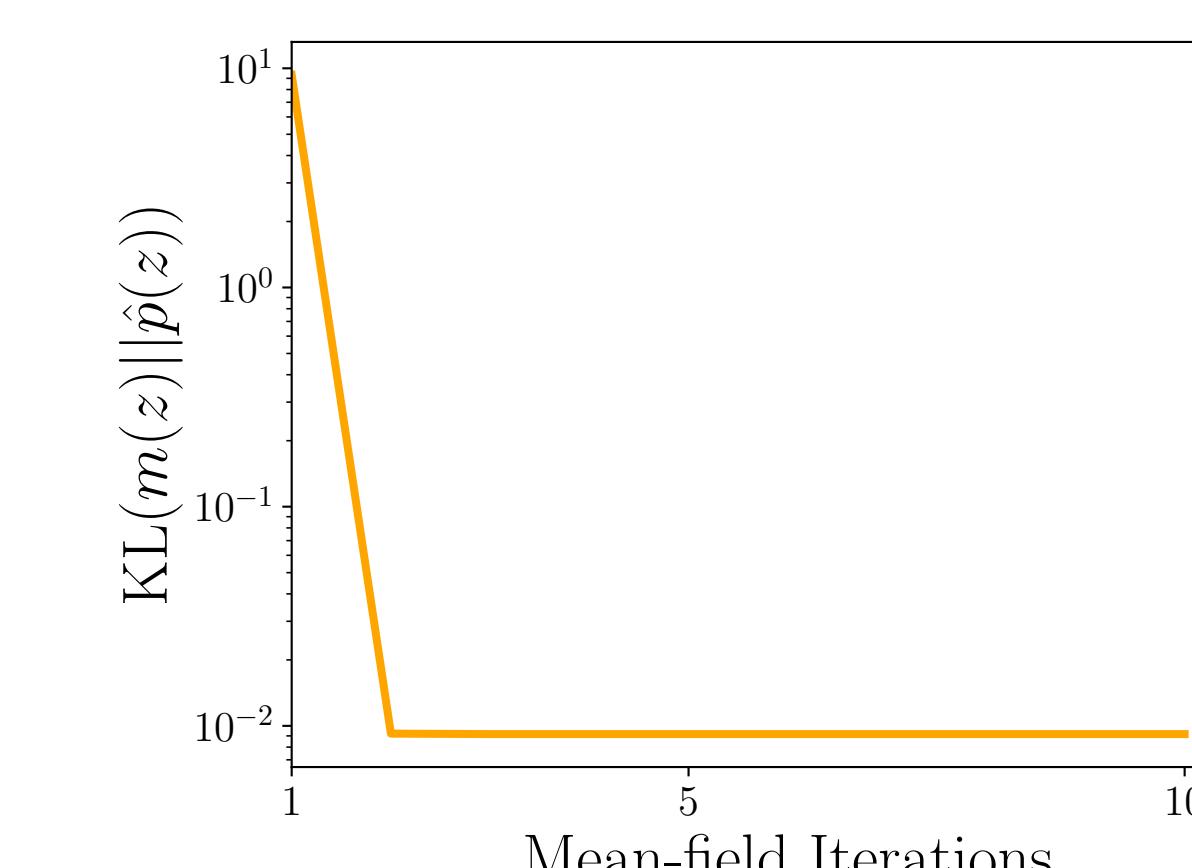
- Use implicit differentiation for the gradient of  $\zeta$  w.r.t  $q$
- Extend  $r(\zeta|x)$  to Normal and power-function dist.



## EXPERIMENTS

	Variational Bound		Importance Weighted Bound							
	DVAE	DVAE++	DVAE#		Guass. Int.		Gauss.	Exp	Unifor- Exp	Power
K	Spike- Exp	Exp	Power							
1	83.97	84.15	83.62	84.30	84.35	83.96	83.54	<b>83.37</b>		
5	83.74	84.85	83.57	83.68	83.61	83.70	83.33	<b>82.99</b>		
25	84.19	85.49	83.58	83.39	83.26	83.76	83.30	<b>82.85</b>		
	1	103.10	101.34	100.42	102.07	102.84	100.38	<b>99.84</b>	<b>99.75</b>	
OMNIGLOT	5	100.88	100.55	99.51	100.85	101.43	99.93	99.57	<b>99.24</b>	
	25	100.55	100.31	99.49	100.20	100.45	100.10	99.59	<b>98.93</b>	

Negative log-likelihood, lower is better



Code available at:  
[github.com/QuadrantAI/dvae](https://github.com/QuadrantAI/dvae)

QuPA Sampling Library:  
[try.quadrant.ai/qupa](https://try.quadrant.ai/qupa)