Valuation

Aswath Damodaran
First Principles

- Invest in projects that **yield a return greater** than the **minimum acceptable hurdle rate**.
  - The hurdle rate should be **higher for riskier projects** and reflect the **financing mix** used - owners’ funds (equity) or borrowed money (debt)
  - Returns on projects should be measured based on **cash flows** generated and the **timing** of these cash flows; they should also consider both **positive and negative side effects** of these projects.

- Choose a **financing mix** that **minimizes the hurdle rate** and **matches the assets being financed**.

- If there are not enough investments that earn the hurdle rate, **return the cash to stockholders**.
  - The **form of returns** - dividends and stock buybacks - will depend upon the **stockholders’ characteristics**.

**Objective: Maximize the Value of the Firm**
Discounted Cashflow Valuation: Basis for Approach

Value = \sum_{t=1}^{t=n} \frac{CF_t}{(1+r)^t}

where,
- n = Life of the asset
- CF_t = Cashflow in period t
- r = Discount rate reflecting the riskiness of the estimated cashflows
Equity Valuation

- The value of equity is obtained by discounting expected cashflows to equity, i.e., the residual cashflows after meeting all expenses, tax obligations and interest and principal payments, at the cost of equity, i.e., the rate of return required by equity investors in the firm.

\[
\text{Value of Equity} = \sum_{t=1}^{t=n} \frac{\text{CF to Equity}_t}{(1 + k_e)^t}
\]

where,
- CF to Equity$_t$ = Expected Cashflow to Equity in period $t$
- $k_e$ = Cost of Equity

- The dividend discount model is a specialized case of equity valuation, and the value of a stock is the present value of expected future dividends.
The value of the firm is obtained by discounting expected cashflows to the firm, i.e., the residual cashflows after meeting all operating expenses and taxes, but prior to debt payments, at the weighted average cost of capital, which is the cost of the different components of financing used by the firm, weighted by their market value proportions.

\[
\text{Value of Firm} = \sum_{t=1}^{t=n} \frac{\text{CF to Firm}_t}{(1 + \text{WACC})^t}
\]

where,

\( \text{CF to Firm}_t = \text{Expected Cashflow to Firm in period } t \)
\( \text{WACC} = \text{Weighted Average Cost of Capital} \)
Generic DCF Valuation Model

DISCOUNTED CASHFLOW VALUATION

Cash flows
Firm: Pre-debt cash flow
Equity: After debt cash flows

Expected Growth
Firm: Growth in Operating Earnings
Equity: Growth in Net Income/EPS

Firm is in stable growth: Grows at constant rate forever

Terminal Value

Length of Period of High Growth

Discount Rate
Firm: Cost of Capital
Equity: Cost of Equity

Value
Firm: Value of Firm
Equity: Value of Equity

CF1 CF2 CF3 CF4 CF5 CFn

Forever
Estimating Inputs:
I. Discount Rates

- Critical ingredient in discounted cashflow valuation. Errors in estimating the discount rate or mismatching cashflows and discount rates can lead to serious errors in valuation.
- At an intuitive level, the discount rate used should be consistent with both the riskiness and the type of cashflow being discounted.
- The cost of equity is the rate at which we discount cash flows to equity (dividends or free cash flows to equity). The cost of capital is the rate at which we discount free cash flows to the firm.
Estimating Aracruz’s Cost of Equity

- We will do the Aracruz valuation in U.S. dollars. We will therefore use a U.S. dollar cost of equity.
- We estimated a beta for equity of 0.7576 for the paper business that Aracruz. With a nominal U.S. dollar riskfree rate of 4% and an equity risk premium of 12.49% for Brazil, we arrive at a dollar cost of equity of 13.46%

\[
\text{Cost of equity} = 4\% + 0.7576 \times (12.49\%) = 13.46\%
\]
Deutsche Bank is in two different segments of business - commercial banking and investment banking.

- To estimate its commercial banking beta, we will use the average beta of commercial banks in Germany.
- To estimate the investment banking beta, we will use the average bet of investment banks in the U.S and U.K.

To estimate the cost of equity in Euros, we will use the German 10-year bond rate of 4.05% as the riskfree rate and the US historical risk premium (4.82%) as our proxy for a mature market premium.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>Cost of Equity</th>
<th>Weights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Banking</td>
<td>0.7345</td>
<td>7.59%</td>
<td>69.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Banking</td>
<td>1.5167</td>
<td>11.36%</td>
<td>30.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutsche Bank</td>
<td>8.76%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reviewing Disney’s Costs of Equity & Debt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Unlevered Beta</th>
<th>D/E Ratio</th>
<th>Levered Beta</th>
<th>Cost of Equity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media Networks</td>
<td>1.0850</td>
<td>26.62%</td>
<td>1.2661</td>
<td>10.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Resorts</td>
<td>0.9105</td>
<td>26.62%</td>
<td>1.0625</td>
<td>9.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio Entertainment</td>
<td>1.1435</td>
<td>26.62%</td>
<td>1.3344</td>
<td>10.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Products</td>
<td>1.1353</td>
<td>26.62%</td>
<td>1.3248</td>
<td>10.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disney</td>
<td>1.0674</td>
<td>26.62%</td>
<td>1.2456</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Disney’s Cost of Debt (based upon rating) = 5.25%
- Disney’s tax rate = 37.3%
Current Cost of Capital: Disney

**Equity**
- Cost of Equity = Riskfree rate + Beta * Risk Premium
  \[ = 4\% + 1.25 \times (4.82\%) = 10.00\% \]
- Market Value of Equity = $55.101 Billion
- Equity/(Debt+Equity ) = 79%

**Debt**
- After-tax Cost of debt = (Riskfree rate + Default Spread) (1-t)
  \[ = (4\%+1.25\%) \times (1-.373) = 3.29\% \]
- Market Value of Debt = $14.668 Billion
- Debt/(Debt +Equity) = 21%

**Cost of Capital** = 10.00%(.79)+3.29%(.21) = 8.59%

\[ 55.101(55.101+14.668) \]
II. Estimating Cash Flows

Cash Flows

- To Equity
  - The Strict View
    - Dividends +
    - Stock Buybacks
  - The Broader View
    - Net Income
    - Net Cap Ex (1-Debt Ratio)
    - Chg WC (1 - Debt Ratio)
    - EBIT (1-t)
    - ( Cap Ex - Depreciation)
    - Change in Working Capital
    = Free Cashflow to Equity

- To Firm
  - EBIT (1-t)
  = Free Cashflow to Firm
## Estimating FCFE last year: Aracruz

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2003 numbers</th>
<th>Normalized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Income from operating assets</td>
<td>$119.68 million</td>
<td>$119.68 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Net Capital Expenditures (1-DR)</td>
<td>$37.31 million</td>
<td>$71.45 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Chg. Working Capital*(1-DR)</td>
<td>$3.05 million</td>
<td>$7.50 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Cashflow to Equity</td>
<td>$79.32 million</td>
<td>$40.73 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DR = Debt Ratio = Industry average book debt to capital ratio = 55.98%

Equity Reinvestment = $71.45 million + $7.50 = $78.95 million

Equity Reinvestment Rate = $78.95 / $119.68 = 65.97%
Estimating FCFF in 2003: Disney

- EBIT = $2,805 Million  Tax rate = 37.30%
- Capital spending = $1,735 Million
- Depreciation = $1,254 Million
- Increase in Non-cash Working capital = $454 Million

**Estimating FCFF**

\[
\text{EBIT} \times (1 - \text{tax rate}) = \text{EBIT} \times (1 - 0.373) = 2805 \times (1 - 0.373) = 1759
\]

\[
\text{- Net Capital Expenditures} = 1735 - 1254 = 481
\]

\[
\text{- Change in Working Capital} = 454
\]

Free Cashflow to Firm = 1759 - 481 - 454 = 824

**Total Reinvestment** = Net Cap Ex + Change in WC = 481 + 454 = 935

**Reinvestment Rate** = 935/1759 = 53.18%
Application Test: Estimating your firm’s FCFF

- Estimate the FCFF for your firm in its most recent financial year:
  In general, If using statement of cash flows
  EBIT (1-t) EBIT (1-t)
  + Depreciation + Depreciation
  - Capital Expenditures + Capital Expenditures
  - Change in Non-cash WC + Change in Non-cash WC
  = FCFF = FCFF

Estimate the dollar reinvestment at your firm:
Reinvestment = EBIT (1-t) - FCFF
Choosing a Cash Flow to Discount

- When you cannot estimate the free cash flows to equity or the firm, the only cash flow that you can discount is dividends. For financial service firms, it is difficult to estimate free cash flows. For Deutsche Bank, we will be discounting dividends.

- If a firm’s debt ratio is not expected to change over time, the free cash flows to equity can be discounted to yield the value of equity. For Aracruz, we will discount free cash flows to equity.

- If a firm’s debt ratio might change over time, free cash flows to equity become cumbersome to estimate. Here, we would discount free cash flows to the firm. For Disney, we will discount the free cash flow to the firm.
III. Expected Growth

- Net Income
  - Retention Ratio = 1 - Dividends/Net Income
  - Return on Equity = Net Income/Book Value of Equity

- Operating Income
  - Reinvestment Rate = (Net Cap Ex + Chg in WC)/EBIT(1-t)
  - Return on Capital = EBIT(1-t)/Book Value of Capital

Expected Growth = Net Income * Return on Equity * Reinvestment Rate

Expected Growth = Operating Income * Return on Capital
Expected Growth in EPS

\[ g_{\text{EPS}} = \frac{\text{Retained Earnings}_{t-1}}{\text{NI}_{t-1}} \times \text{ROE} \]
\[ = \text{Retention Ratio} \times \text{ROE} \]
\[ = b \times \text{ROE} \]

- Proposition 1: The expected growth rate in earnings for a company cannot exceed its return on equity in the long term.
In 2003, Deutsche Bank reported net income of $1,365 million on a book value of equity of $29,991 million at the end of 2002.

- Return on Equity = Net Income\textsubscript{2003}/ Book Value of Equity\textsubscript{2002} = 1365/29,991 = 4.55%

This is lower than the cost of equity for the firm, which is 8.76%, and the average return on equity for European banks, which is 11.26%. In the four quarters ended in March 2004, Deutsche Bank paid out dividends per share of 1.50 Euros on earnings per share of 4.33 Euros.

- Retention Ratio = 1 – Dividends per share/ Earnings per share = 1 – 1.50/4.33 = 65.36%

If Deutsche maintains its existing return on equity and retention ratio for the long term, its expected growth rate will be anemic.

- Expected Growth Rate = Retention Ratio * ROE = .6536*.0455 = 2.97%

For the next five years, we will assume that the return on equity will improve to the industry average of 11.26% while the retention ratio will stay unchanged at 65.36%. The expected growth in earnings per share is 7.36%.

- Expected Growth Rate\textsubscript{Modified Fundamentals} = .6536 *.1126 = .0736
Estimating Expected Growth in Net Income: Aracruz

- Rather than base the equity reinvestment rate on the most recent year’s numbers, we will use the average values for each of the variables over the last 6 years to compute a “normalized” equity reinvestment rate:
  - Normalized Equity Reinvestment Rate = Average Equity Reinvestment_{99-03}/ Average Net Income_{99-03} = 213.17/323.12 = 65.97%

- To estimate the return on equity, we look at only the portion of the net income that comes from operations (ignoring the income from cash and marketable securities) and divide by the book value of equity net of cash and marketable securities.
  - Non-cash ROE = (Net Income – After-tax Interest income on cash)$_{2003}$/ (BV of Equity – Cash)$_{2002}$
  - Non-cash ROE$_{Aracruz}$ = (148.09 – 43.04(1-.34))/ (1760.58-273.93) = .0805 or 8.05%

- Expected Growth in Net Income = Equity Reinvestment Rate * Non-cash ROE
  = 65.97% * 8.05% = 5.31%
ROE and Leverage

- ROE = ROC + D/E (ROC - i (1-t))

where,

ROC = (EBIT (1 - tax rate)) / Book Value of Capital
    = EBIT (1- t) / Book Value of Capital

D/E = BV of Debt/ BV of Equity

i = Interest Expense on Debt / Book Value of Debt

t = Tax rate on ordinary income

- Note that BV of Capital = BV of Debt + BV of Equity.
Decomposing ROE

- Assume that you are analyzing a company with a 15% return on capital, an after-tax cost of debt of 5% and a book debt to capital ratio of 100%. Estimate the ROE for this company.

- Now assume that another company in the same sector has the same ROE as the company that you have just analyzed but no debt. Will these two firms have the same growth rates in earnings per share if they have the same dividend payout ratio?

- Will they have the same equity value?
Expected Growth in EBIT And Fundamentals

- **Reinvestment Rate and Return on Capital**
  
  \[ g_{EBIT} = \frac{(\text{Net Capital Expenditures} + \text{Change in WC})}{\text{EBIT}(1-t)} \times \text{ROC} \]
  
  \[ = \text{Reinvestment Rate} \times \text{ROC} \]

- **Proposition 2**: No firm can expect its operating income to grow over time without reinvesting some of the operating income in net capital expenditures and/or working capital.

- **Proposition 3**: The net capital expenditure needs of a firm, for a given growth rate, should be inversely proportional to the quality of its investments.
Estimating Growth in EBIT: Disney

We begin by estimating the reinvestment rate and return on capital for Disney in 2003, using the numbers from the latest financial statements. We did convert operating leases into debt and adjusted the operating income and capital expenditure accordingly.

- **Reinvestment Rate**
  \[ \text{Reinvestment Rate}_{2003} = \frac{\text{Cap Ex} - \text{Depreciation} + \text{Chg in non-cash WC}}{\text{EBIT} (1-t)} \]
  \[ = \frac{1735 - 1253 + 454}{2805(1-.373)} = 53.18\% \]

- **Return on capital**
  \[ \text{Return on capital}_{2003} = \frac{\text{EBIT} (1-t)}{\text{BV of Debt}_{2002} + \text{BV of Equity}_{2002}} \]
  \[ = \frac{2805 (1-.373)}{15,883+23,879} = 4.42\% \]

- Expected Growth Rate from existing fundamentals = 53.18\% * 4.42\% = 2.35\%

We will assume that Disney will be able to earn a return on capital of 12\% on its new investments and that the reinvestment rate will be 53.18\% for the immediate future.

- Expected Growth Rate in operating income = Return on capital * Reinvestment Rate
  \[ = 12\% * .5318 = 6.38\% \]
Application Test: Estimating Expected Growth

Estimate the following:

- The reinvestment rate for your firm
- The after-tax return on capital
- The expected growth in operating income, based upon these inputs
IV. Getting Closure in Valuation

- A publicly traded firm potentially has an infinite life. The value is therefore the present value of cash flows forever.

\[
\text{Value} = \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \frac{CF_t}{(1+r)^t}
\]

- Since we cannot estimate cash flows forever, we estimate cash flows for a “growth period” and then estimate a terminal value, to capture the value at the end of the period:

\[
\text{Value} = \sum_{t=1}^{N} \frac{CF_t}{(1+r)^t} + \frac{\text{Terminal Value}}{(1+r)^N}
\]
Stable Growth and Terminal Value

- When a firm’s cash flows grow at a “constant” rate forever, the present value of those cash flows can be written as:
  \[ \text{Value} = \frac{\text{Expected Cash Flow Next Period}}{(r - g)} \]
  where,
  \[ r = \text{Discount rate (Cost of Equity or Cost of Capital)} \]
  \[ g = \text{Expected growth rate} \]

- This “constant” growth rate is called a stable growth rate and cannot be higher than the growth rate of the economy in which the firm operates.

- While companies can maintain high growth rates for extended periods, they will all approach “stable growth” at some point in time.

- When they do approach stable growth, the valuation formula above can be used to estimate the “terminal value” of all cash flows beyond.
Growth Patterns

- A key assumption in all discounted cash flow models is the period of high growth, and the pattern of growth during that period. In general, we can make one of three assumptions:
  - there is no high growth, in which case the firm is already in stable growth
  - there will be high growth for a period, at the end of which the growth rate will drop to the stable growth rate (2-stage)
  - there will be high growth for a period, at the end of which the growth rate will decline gradually to a stable growth rate (3-stage)

- The assumption of how long high growth will continue will depend upon several factors including:
  - the size of the firm (larger firm -> shorter high growth periods)
  - current growth rate (if high -> longer high growth period)
  - barriers to entry and differential advantages (if high -> longer growth period)
Assume that you are analyzing two firms, both of which are enjoying high growth. The first firm is Earthlink Network, an internet service provider, which operates in an environment with few barriers to entry and extraordinary competition. The second firm is Biogen, a bio-technology firm which is enjoying growth from two drugs to which it owns patents for the next decade. Assuming that both firms are well managed, which of the two firms would you expect to have a longer high growth period?

- Earthlink Network
- Biogen
- Both are well managed and should have the same high growth period
Choosing a Growth Period: Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Disney</th>
<th>Aracruz</th>
<th>Deutsche Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firm Size/Market Size</td>
<td>Firm is one of the largest players in the entertainment and theme park businesses but the businesses are redefining themselves and expanding.</td>
<td>Firm has a small market share of the paper/pulp business, but the business is mature.</td>
<td>Firm has a significant market share of a mature business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Excess Returns</td>
<td>Firm is earning less than its cost of capital, and has done so for last few years</td>
<td>Returns on capital are largely a function of paper/pulp prices but, on average, have been less than the cost of capital.</td>
<td>Firm has a return on equity that has lagged its cost of equity in recent years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Advantages</td>
<td>Has some of the most recognized brand names in the world. Knows more about operating theme parks than any other firm in the world. Has skilled animation studio staff.</td>
<td>Cost advantages because of access to Brazilian rainforests. Has invested in newer, updated plants and has skilled workforce.</td>
<td>Has an edge in the commercial banking business in Germany but this advantage is dissipating in the EU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of High Growth period</td>
<td>10 years, entirely because of its strong competitive advantages (which have been wasted over the last few years) but the excess returns are likely to be small.</td>
<td>5 years, largely due to access to cheap raw material.</td>
<td>5 years, mostly to allow firms to recover to pre-downturn levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Firm Characteristics as Growth Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>High Growth Firms tend to</th>
<th>Stable Growth Firms tend to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk</td>
<td>be above-average risk</td>
<td>be average risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend Payout</td>
<td>pay little or no dividends</td>
<td>pay high dividends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cap Ex</td>
<td>have high net cap ex</td>
<td>have low net cap ex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return on Capital</td>
<td>earn high ROC (excess return)</td>
<td>earn ROC closer to WACC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leverage</td>
<td>have little or no debt</td>
<td>higher leverage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Estimating Stable Growth Inputs

- Start with the fundamentals:
  - Profitability measures such as return on equity and capital, in stable growth, can be estimated by looking at
    - industry averages for these measures, in which case we assume that this firm in stable growth will look like the average firm in the industry
    - cost of equity and capital, in which case we assume that the firm will stop earning excess returns on its projects as a result of competition.
  - Leverage is a tougher call. While industry averages can be used here as well, it depends upon how entrenched current management is and whether they are stubborn about their policy on leverage (If they are, use current leverage; if they are not; use industry averages)

- Use the relationship between growth and fundamentals to estimate payout and net capital expenditures.
The beta for the stock will drop to one, reflecting Disney’s status as a mature company. This will lower the cost of equity for the firm to 8.82%.

\[
\text{Cost of Equity} = \text{Riskfree Rate} + \beta \times \text{Risk Premium} = 4\% + 4.82\% = 8.82\%
\]

The debt ratio for Disney will rise to 30%. This is the optimal we computed for Disney in chapter 8 and we are assuming that investor pressure will be the impetus for this change. Since we assume that the cost of debt remains unchanged at 5.25%, this will result in a cost of capital of 7.16%.

\[
\text{Cost of capital} = 8.82\% \times 0.70 + 5.25\% \times (1-0.373) \times 0.30 = 7.16\%
\]

The return on capital for Disney will drop from its high growth period level of 12% to a stable growth return of 10%. This is still higher than the cost of capital of 7.16% but the competitive advantages that Disney has are unlikely to dissipate completely by the end of the 10th year. The expected growth rate in stable growth will be 4%. In conjunction with the return on capital of 10%, this yields a stable period reinvestment rate of 40%:

\[
\text{Reinvestment Rate} = \frac{\text{Growth Rate}}{\text{Return on Capital}} = \frac{4\%}{10\%} = 40\%
\]
A Dividend Discount Model Valuation: Deutsche Bank

- We estimated the annual growth rate for the next 5 years at Deutsche Bank to be 7.36%, based upon an estimated ROE of 11.26% and a retention ratio of 65.36%.
- In 2003, the earnings per share at Deutsche Bank were 4.33 Euros, and the dividend per share was 1.50 Euros.
- Our earlier analysis of the risk at Deutsche Bank provided us with an estimate of beta of 0.98, which used in conjunction with the Euro riskfree rate of 4.05% and a risk premium of 4.82%, yielded a cost of equity of 8.76%
### Expected Dividends and Terminal Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EPS</th>
<th>Payout Ratio</th>
<th>DPS</th>
<th>PV at 8.76%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>€4.65</td>
<td>34.64%</td>
<td>€1.61</td>
<td>€1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>€4.99</td>
<td>34.64%</td>
<td>€1.73</td>
<td>€1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>€5.36</td>
<td>34.64%</td>
<td>€1.86</td>
<td>€1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>€5.75</td>
<td>34.64%</td>
<td>€1.99</td>
<td>€1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>€6.18</td>
<td>34.64%</td>
<td>€2.14</td>
<td>€1.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Present value of expected dividends = €7.22
Terminal Value and Present Value…

- At the end of year 5, we will assume that Deutsche Bank’s earnings growth will drop to 4% and stay at that level in perpetuity. In keeping with the assumption of stable growth, we will also assume that
  - The beta will rise marginally to 1, resulting in a slightly higher cost of equity of 8.87%.
    
    \[ \text{Cost of Equity} = \text{Riskfree Rate} + \text{Beta} \times \text{Risk Premium} = 4.05\% + 4.82\% = 8.87\% \]
    
    - The return on equity will drop to the cost of equity of 8.87%, thus preventing excess returns from being earned in perpetuity.
      
    \[ \text{Stable Period Payout Ratio} = 1 - \frac{g}{\text{ROE}} = 1 - \frac{0.04}{0.0887} = 0.5490 \text{ or } 54.9\% \]
    
    Expected Dividends in year 6 = Expected EPS\textsubscript{6} \times \text{Stable period payout ratio}
    
    \[ = \€6.18 \times 1.04 \times 0.549 = \€3.5263 \]
  
  - Terminal Value per share = Expected Dividends in year 6/ (Cost of equity – g)
    
    \[ = \frac{\€3.5263}{0.0887 - 0.04} = \€72.41 \]
  
  - Present value of terminal value = 72.41/1.0876^5 = 47.59

- Value per share = PV of expected dividends in high growth + PV of terminal value = \€7.22 + \€47.59 = \€54.80

- Deutsche Bank was trading at €66 at the time of this analysis.
What does the valuation tell us?

- Stock is overvalued: This valuation would suggest that Deutsche Bank is significantly overvalued, given our estimates of expected growth and risk.
- Dividends may not reflect the cash flows generated by Deutsche Bank. The FCFE could have been significantly higher than the dividends paid.
- Estimates of growth and risk are wrong: It is also possible that we have underestimated growth or overestimated risk in the model, thus reducing our estimate of value.
A FCFE Valuation: Aracruz Celulose

- The net income for the firm in 2003 was $148.09 million but $28.41 million of this income represented income from financial assets. The net income from non-operating assets is $119.68 million.

- Inputs estimated for high growth period
  - Expected Growth in Net Income = Equity Reinvestment Rate * Non-cash ROE
    \[
    = 65.97\% \times 8.05\% = 5.31\%
    \]
  - Cost of equity = 4% + 0.7576 (12.49%) = 13.46%

- After year 5, we will assume that the beta will remain at 0.7576 and that the equity risk premium will decline to 8.66%.
  - Cost of equity in stable growth = 4% + 0.7576 (8.66%) = 10.56%
  - We will also assume that the growth in net income will drop to the inflation rate (in U.S. dollar terms) of 2% and that the return on equity will rise to 10.56% (which is also the cost of equity).
  - Equity Reinvestment Rate_{Stable\ Growth} = \frac{\text{Expected Growth Rate}}{\text{Return on Equity}}
    \[
    = \frac{2\%}{10.56\%} = 18.94\%
    \]
Aracruz: Estimating FCFE for next 5 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Income (non-cash)</td>
<td>$126.04</td>
<td>$132.74</td>
<td>$139.79</td>
<td>$147.21</td>
<td>$155.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity Reinvestment Rate</td>
<td>65.97%</td>
<td>65.97%</td>
<td>65.97%</td>
<td>65.97%</td>
<td>65.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCFE</td>
<td>$42.89</td>
<td>$45.17</td>
<td>$47.57</td>
<td>$50.09</td>
<td>$52.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Value at 10.33%</td>
<td>$37.80</td>
<td>$35.09</td>
<td>$32.56</td>
<td>$30.23</td>
<td>$28.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• FCFE in year 6 = Net Income in year 6 (1- Equity Reinvestment Rate\(_{\text{Stable Growth}}\)) = 155.03 (1.02) (1- .1894) = $128.18 million

• Terminal value of equity = 128.18/(.1056-.02) = $1497.98 million

Present Value of FCFEs in high growth phase = $163.73
+ Present Value of Terminal Equity Value = 1497.98/1.1346\(^5\) = $796.55
Value of equity in operating assets = $960.28
+ Value of Cash and Marketable Securities = $352.28
Value of equity in firm = $1,312.56
Value of equity/share = $1,312.56/859.59 = $1.53/share
Value of equity/share in BR = $1.53 * 3.15 BR/$ = 4.81 BR/share
Stock price = 7.50 BR/share
Disney Valuation

Model Used:
- Cash Flow: FCFF (since I think leverage will change over time)
- Growth Pattern: 3-stage Model (even though growth in operating income is only 10%, there are substantial barriers to entry)
## Disney: Inputs to Valuation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>High Growth Phase</strong></th>
<th><strong>Transition Phase</strong></th>
<th><strong>Stable Growth Phase</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length of Period</strong></td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Forever after 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax Rate</strong></td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Return on Capital</strong></td>
<td>12% (last year’s return on capital was 4.42%)</td>
<td>Declines linearly to 16%</td>
<td>Stable ROC of 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reinvestment Rate</strong></td>
<td>53.18% (last year’s reinvestment rate)</td>
<td>Decreases to 31.25% as ROC and growth rates drop: Reinvestment Rate = g/ROC</td>
<td>40% of after-tax operating income, estimated from stable growth rate of 4% and return on capital of 10%. Reinvestment rate = 4/10 =40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expected Growth Rate in EBIT</strong></td>
<td>ROC * Reinvestment Rate = 12%*0.5318 = 6.38%</td>
<td>Linear decline to Stable Growth Rate of 4%</td>
<td>4%: Set to risk-free rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debt/Capital Ratio</strong></td>
<td>21% (Existing debt ratio)</td>
<td>Increases linearly to 30%</td>
<td>Stable debt ratio of 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk Parameters</strong></td>
<td>Beta = 1.25, kₑ = 10%</td>
<td>Beta decreases linearly to 1.00; Cost of debt stays at 5.25%</td>
<td>Beta = 1.00; kₑ = 8.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost of Debt = 5.25%</td>
<td>Cost of debt drops to 7.16%</td>
<td>Cost of debt stays at 5.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost of capital = 8.59%</td>
<td>Cost of capital drops to 7.16%</td>
<td>Cost of capital = 7.16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Disney: FCFF Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Expected Growth</th>
<th>EBIT</th>
<th>EBIT (1−t)</th>
<th>Reinvestment Rate</th>
<th>Reinvestment</th>
<th>FCFF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,805</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
<td>$2,984</td>
<td>$1,871</td>
<td>53.18%</td>
<td>$994.92</td>
<td>$876.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
<td>$3,174</td>
<td>$1,990</td>
<td>53.18%</td>
<td>$1,058.41</td>
<td>$931.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
<td>$3,377</td>
<td>$2,117</td>
<td>53.18%</td>
<td>$1,125.94</td>
<td>$991.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
<td>$3,592</td>
<td>$2,252</td>
<td>53.18%</td>
<td>$1,197.79</td>
<td>$1,054.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
<td>$3,822</td>
<td>$2,396</td>
<td>53.18%</td>
<td>$1,274.23</td>
<td>$1,122.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.90%</td>
<td>$4,047</td>
<td>$2,538</td>
<td>50.54%</td>
<td>$1,282.59</td>
<td>$1,255.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.43%</td>
<td>$4,267</td>
<td>$2,675</td>
<td>47.91%</td>
<td>$1,281.71</td>
<td>$1,393.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4.95%</td>
<td>$4,478</td>
<td>$2,808</td>
<td>45.27%</td>
<td>$1,271.19</td>
<td>$1,536.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.48%</td>
<td>$4,679</td>
<td>$2,934</td>
<td>42.64%</td>
<td>$1,250.78</td>
<td>$1,682.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>$4,866</td>
<td>$3,051</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
<td>$1,220.41</td>
<td>$1,830.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Disney: Costs of Capital and Present Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost of capital</th>
<th>FCFF</th>
<th>PV of FCFF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.59%</td>
<td>$876.06</td>
<td>$806.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.59%</td>
<td>$931.96</td>
<td>$790.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8.59%</td>
<td>$991.43</td>
<td>$774.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.59%</td>
<td>$1,054.70</td>
<td>$758.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.59%</td>
<td>$1,122.00</td>
<td>$743.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8.31%</td>
<td>$1,255.13</td>
<td>$767.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8.02%</td>
<td>$1,393.77</td>
<td>$788.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.73%</td>
<td>$1,536.80</td>
<td>$807.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.45%</td>
<td>$1,682.90</td>
<td>$822.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7.16%</td>
<td>$1,830.62</td>
<td>$835.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PV of cashflows during high growth = $7,894.66
Disney: Terminal Value and Firm Value

Terminal Value
- \( FCFF_{11} = EBIT_{11} (1-t) (1- \text{Reinvestment Rate}_{\text{Stable Growth}}) / \)
  \( = 4866 \times 1.04 \times (1-0.40) = $1,903.84 \text{ million} \)
- Terminal Value = \( FCFF_{11} / (\text{Cost of capital}_{\text{Stable Growth}} - g) \)
  \( = \frac{1903.84}{0.0716 - 0.04} = $60,219.11 \text{ million} \)

Value of firm
- PV of cashflows during the high growth phase = $7,894.66
- PV of terminal value = $27,477.81
- + Cash and Marketable Securities = $1,583.00
- + Non-operating Assets (Holdings in other companies) = $1,849.00
- Value of the firm = $38,804.48
From Firm to Equity Value: What do you subtract out?

- The first thing you have to subtract out is the debt that you computed (and used in estimating the cost of capital). If you have capitalized operating leases, you should continue to treat operating leases as debt in this stage in the process.
- This is also your last chance to consider other potential liabilities that may be faced by the firm including
  - *Expected liabilities on lawsuits*: You could be analyzing a firm that is the defendant in a lawsuit, where it potentially could have to pay tens of millions of dollars in damages. You should estimate the probability that this will occur and use this probability to estimate the expected liability.
  - *Unfunded Pension and Health Care Obligations*: If a firm has significantly under funded a pension or a health plan, it will need to set aside cash in future years to meet these obligations. While it would not be considered debt for cost of capital purposes, it should be subtracted from firm value to arrive at equity value.
  - *Deferred Tax Liability*: The deferred tax liability that shows up on the financial statements of many firms reflects the fact that firms often use strategies that reduce their taxes in the current year while increasing their taxes in the future years.
From Equity Value to Equity Value per share: The Effect of Options

- When there are warrants and employee options outstanding, the estimated value of these options has to be subtracted from the value of the equity, before we divide by the number of shares outstanding.
- There are two alternative approaches that are used in practice:
  - One is to divide the value of equity by the *fully diluted number of shares* outstanding rather than by the actual number. This approach will underestimate the value of the equity, because it fails to consider the cash proceeds from option exercise.
  - The other shortcut, which is called the *treasury stock approach*, adds the expected proceeds from the exercise of the options (exercise price multiplied by the number of options outstanding) to the numerator before dividing by the number of shares outstanding. While this approach will yield a more reasonable estimate than the first one, it does not include the time value of the options outstanding.
Valuing Disney’s options…

- At the end of 2003, Disney had 219 million options outstanding, with a weighted average exercise price of $26.44 and weighted average life of 6 years.
- Using the current stock price of $26.91, an estimated standard deviation of 40, a dividend yield of 1.21%, a riskfree rate of 4% and the Black-Scholes option pricing model we arrived at a value of $2,129 million.
- Since options expenses are tax-deductible, we used the tax rate of 37.30% to estimate the value of the employee options:
- Value of employee options = 2129 (1- .373) = $1334.67 million
Disney: Value of Equity per Share

- Subtracting out the market value of debt (including operating leases) of $14,668.22 million and the value of the equity options (estimated to be worth $1,334.67 million in illustration 12.10) yields the value of the common stock:

  Value of equity in common stock = Value of firm – Debt – Equity Options = $38,804.48 - $14,668.22 - $1334.67 = $22,801.59

- Dividing by the number of shares outstanding (2047.60 million), we arrive at a value per share of $11.14, well below the market price of $26.91 at the time of this valuation.
Current Cashflow to Firm
EBIT(1-t) :                   1,759
- Nt CpX      481
- Chg WC      454
= FCFF                $  824
Reinvestment Rate=(481+454)/1759
= 53.18%

Expected Growth in EBIT (1-t)
.5318*.12=.0638
6.38%

Cashflows
EBIT (1-t)    $1,871    $1,990    $2,117    $2,252    $2,396
- Reinvestment  $995    $1,058    $1,126    $1,198    $1,274
FCFF             $876    $932    $991    $1,055    $1,122

Growth drops to 4%

Discount at Cost of Capital (WACC) = 10.00% (.79) + 3.29% (0.21) = 8.59

Terminal Value
10= 1,904/(.0716-.04) = 60,219

Cost of Equity
10%

Cost of Debt
(4.00%+1.25%)(1-.373)
= 3.29%

Weights
E = 79% D = 21%

In transition phase, debt ratio increases to 30% and cost of capital decreases to 7.16%

Disney was trading at about $26 at the time of this valuation.
### The Investment Decision
Invest in projects that earn a return greater than a minimum acceptable hurdle rate.

### The Dividend Decision
If you cannot find investments that earn more than the hurdle rate, return the cash to the owners of the businesss.

### The Financing Decision
Choose a financing mix that minimizes the hurdle rate and match your financing to your assets.

#### Existing Investments
- Return on Capital: 12%
- Reinvestment Rate: 53.18%
- Expected Growth Rate: 12% * 53.18% = 6.38%

#### New Investments
- Financing Mix: D=21%; E=79%
- Financing Choices: Fixed rate US $ debt with duration of 11.5 years

#### Current EBIT (1-t)
$1,759

#### Expected Growth Rate
12%

#### Cost of capital
10% (.79) + 3.29% (.21) = 8.59%

#### Terminal Value
$60,219.11

#### Value of Operating Assets
+ Cash & Non-op Assets = $35,372.62

#### Value of firm
$38,804.62

#### Options
$1,334.67

#### Value of equity in stock
$22,801.73

#### Value per share
$11.14

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Expected Growth Rate</th>
<th>EBIT</th>
<th>EBIT (1-t)</th>
<th>Reinvestment Rate</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.80%</td>
<td>$5,046</td>
<td>$3,155</td>
<td>37.68%</td>
<td>$1,189.79</td>
<td>$1,977.92</td>
<td>6.89%</td>
<td>$848.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal Value</td>
<td>3.80%</td>
<td>$5,046</td>
<td>$3,155</td>
<td>37.68%</td>
<td>$1,189.79</td>
<td>$1,977.92</td>
<td>6.89%</td>
<td>$848.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disney: Corporate Financing Decisions and Firm Value**
The Investment Decision
Invest in projects that earn a return greater than a minimum acceptable hurdle rate.

The Dividend Decision
If you cannot find investments that earn more than the hurdle rate, return the cash to the owners of the business.

The Financing Decision
Choose a financing mix that minimizes the hurdle rate and match your financing to your assets.

Return on Capital
15%

Reinvestment Rate
53.18%

Expected Growth Rate = 15% * 53.18% = 7.98%

Year | Expected Growth | EBIT | EBIT (1-t) | Reinvestment Rate | Reinvestment | FCFF | Cost of capital | PV of FCFF |
-----|-----------------|------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|------|----------------|-----------|
Current | | $5,327 | | | | | | |
1 | 7.98% | $5,752 | $3,606 | 53.18% | $1,918 | $1,688 | 8.40% | $1,558 |
2 | 7.98% | $6,211 | $3,894 | 53.18% | $2,071 | $1,823 | 8.40% | $1,551 |
3 | 7.98% | $6,706 | $4,205 | 53.18% | $2,236 | $1,969 | 8.40% | $1,545 |
4 | 7.98% | $7,241 | $4,540 | 53.18% | $2,414 | $2,126 | 8.40% | $1,539 |
5 | 7.98% | $7,819 | $4,902 | 53.18% | $2,607 | $2,295 | 8.40% | $1,533 |
6 | 7.18% | $8,380 | $5,254 | 50.54% | $2,656 | $2,599 | 8.16% | $1,605 |
7 | 6.39% | $8,915 | $5,580 | 47.91% | $2,678 | $2,912 | 7.91% | $1,667 |
8 | 5.59% | $9,414 | $5,902 | 45.27% | $2,672 | $3,230 | 7.66% | $1,717 |
9 | 4.80% | $9,865 | $6,185 | 42.64% | $2,637 | $3,548 | 7.41% | $1,756 |
10 | 4.00% | $10,260 | $6,433 | 40.00% | $2,573 | $3,860 | 7.16% | $1,783 |
Terminal Value | | $126,967 | | | | | $58,645 |

Value of Operating Assets = $74,900
+ Cash & Non-op Assets = $3,432
Value of firm = $78,332
- Debt = $14,649
- Options = $1,335
Value of equity in stock = $62,349
Value per share = $30.45
In relative valuation, the value of an asset is derived from the pricing of 'comparable' assets, standardized using a common variable such as earnings, cashflows, book value or revenues. Examples include--

- Price/Earnings (P/E) ratios
  - and variants (EBIT multiples, EBITDA multiples, Cash Flow multiples)
- Price/Book (P/BV) ratios
  - and variants (Tobin's Q)
- Price/Sales ratios
Multiples and Fundamenals

- **Gordon Growth Model:**
  - Dividing both sides by the earnings
    \[ \frac{P_0}{EPS_0} = \frac{DPS_1}{EPS_0} = PE = \frac{\text{Payout Ratio} \times (1 + g_n)}{r - g_n} \]
  - Dividing both sides by the book value of equity
    \[ \frac{P_0}{BV_0} = \frac{P_0}{BV_0} = PBV = \frac{\text{ROE} \times \text{Payout Ratio} \times (1 + g_n)}{r - g_n} \]
  - If the return on equity is written in terms of the retention ratio and the expected growth rate
    \[ \frac{P_0}{BV_0} = \frac{P_0}{BV_0} = PBV = \frac{\text{ROE} - g_n}{r - g_n} \]
  - Dividing by the Sales per share
    \[ \frac{P_0}{Sales_0} = \frac{P_0}{Sales_0} = PS = \frac{\text{Profit Margin} \times \text{Payout Ratio} \times (1 + g_n)}{r - g_n} \]
## Disney: Relative Valuation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Ticker Symbol</th>
<th>PE</th>
<th>Expected Growth Rate</th>
<th>PEG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point 360</td>
<td>PTSX</td>
<td>10.62</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox Entmt Group Inc</td>
<td>FOX</td>
<td>22.03</td>
<td>14.46%</td>
<td>1.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belo Corp. 'A'</td>
<td>BLC</td>
<td>25.65</td>
<td>16.00%</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearst-Argyle Television Inc</td>
<td>HTV</td>
<td>26.72</td>
<td>12.90%</td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Communications Inc.</td>
<td>JRN</td>
<td>27.94</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
<td>2.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saga Communic. 'A'</td>
<td>SGA</td>
<td>28.42</td>
<td>19.00%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viacom Inc. 'B'</td>
<td>VIA/B</td>
<td>29.38</td>
<td>13.50%</td>
<td>2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pixar</td>
<td>PIXR</td>
<td>29.80</td>
<td>16.50%</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disney (Walt)</td>
<td>DIS</td>
<td>29.87</td>
<td>12.00%</td>
<td>2.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westwood One</td>
<td>WON</td>
<td>32.59</td>
<td>19.50%</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Wrestling Ent.</td>
<td>WWE</td>
<td>33.52</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Radio 'A' Inc</td>
<td>CXR</td>
<td>33.76</td>
<td>18.70%</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beasley Broadcast Group Inc</td>
<td>BBGI</td>
<td>34.06</td>
<td>15.23%</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entercom Comm. Corp</td>
<td>ETM</td>
<td>36.11</td>
<td>15.43%</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Corp.</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>37.54</td>
<td>19.50%</td>
<td>1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballantyne of Omaha Inc</td>
<td>BTNE</td>
<td>55.17</td>
<td>17.10%</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regent Communications Inc</td>
<td>RGCI</td>
<td>57.84</td>
<td>22.67%</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmis Communications</td>
<td>EMMS</td>
<td>74.89</td>
<td>16.50%</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulus Media Inc</td>
<td>CMLS</td>
<td>94.35</td>
<td>23.30%</td>
<td>4.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univision Communic.</td>
<td>UVN</td>
<td>122.76</td>
<td>24.50%</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem Communications Corp</td>
<td>SALM</td>
<td>145.67</td>
<td>28.75%</td>
<td>5.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average for sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.08</td>
<td>17.17%</td>
<td>2.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is Disney fairly valued?

- Based upon the PE ratio, is Disney under, over or correctly valued?
  - Under Valued
  - Over Valued
  - Correctly Valued
- Based upon the PEG ratio, is Disney under valued?
  - Under Valued
  - Over Valued
  - Correctly Valued
- Will this valuation give you a higher or lower valuation than the discounted cashflow valuation?
  - Higher
  - Lower
Relative Valuation Assumptions

Assume that you are reading an equity research report where a buy recommendation for a company is being based upon the fact that its PE ratio is lower than the average for the industry. Implicitly, what is the underlying assumption or assumptions being made by this analyst?

- The sector itself is, on average, fairly priced
- The earnings of the firms in the group are being measured consistently
- The firms in the group are all of equivalent risk
- The firms in the group are all at the same stage in the growth cycle
- The firms in the group are of equivalent risk and have similar cash flow patterns
- All of the above
First Principles

- Invest in projects that **yield a return greater than the minimum acceptable hurdle rate**.
  - The hurdle rate should be higher for riskier projects and reflect the **financing mix** used - owners’ funds (equity) or borrowed money (debt)
  - Returns on projects should be measured based on **cash flows** generated and the **timing** of these cash flows; they should also consider both **positive and negative side effects** of these projects.

- Choose a **financing mix** that **minimizes the hurdle rate** and matches the assets being financed.

- If there are not enough investments that earn the hurdle rate, return the cash to stockholders.
  - The **form of returns** - dividends and stock buybacks - will depend upon the stockholders’ characteristics.

**Objective: Maximize the Value of the Firm**