THE DISRUPTION DILEMMA: VALUING THE DISRUPTORS & DISRUPTED

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The Disruptive Economy

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- We live in disruptive times: It is true that we live in an age where the status quo is being challenged and upended by upstarts and disruptors.
- Leading to change at every level: The resulting change at both the macro and micro level has made investors nervous, but not nervous enough to stop investing.
- And questioning of current practices: It has however put existing investing metrics and valuation practices under stress, leading some to question whether they are useful.
- Conviction that this is unique: Much as we would like to believe that we are facing more change and disruption than people in other generations, it depends on your frame of reference.

The Evolution of Uncertainty



With an added complication...



The Two Sides of Disruption

When there are winners, there will also be losers...

The Disruptor and Disrupted

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- <u>The Disruption Dance</u>: There are two sides to disruption, the disruptor (who challenges the status quo with a new way of doing things) and the disrupted (which is targeted by the disruptor).
- <u>Characteristics of Disruptors</u>: While anyone can be a disruptor, you generally are more likely to be the disruptor, if you have nothing to lose. Disruptors tend to be
 - Younger businesses, often with younger management & employees
 - With no or very little to gain from the status quo
- <u>Characteristics of Disrupted</u>: In general, businesses are more likely to be disrupted if they are
 - Large, with established practices
 - Inefficient, either because of inertia, design or regulations.
 - Tied to the status quo, but unhappy with it at the same time.

The Five Stages of being Disrupted: Taxi Cabs and Uber

Stage of disruption	The Disrupted
1. Denial and Delusion	In the first year or two of Uber's existence, there were many in the conventional car service and taxi cab businesses, who were convinced that not only was this a passing phase, but that no customer in his right mind would want to miss the comfort, convenience and safety of a yellow cab experience. (Irony alert!)
2. Failure and False Hope	With each misstep by a ride sharing company, whether it be an employee with a loose tongue or a assault by an Uber driver, the hope that this misstep will put an end to the ride sharing business rises among taxi operators and regulators.
3. Imitation and	In the mistaken belief that all that separated the ride sharing companies from
Institutional Inertia	conventional car service is an app, taxi operators turned to putting apps in the hands of drivers and customers. At the same time, any attempts to introduce flexibility into the existing car service business are fought by politicians, regulators and some of the operators who benefit from the current structure.
4. Regulation, Rule Rigging	This seems to be the place where car service companies madetheir stand, aided and
and Legal Challenges	abetted by regulators, courts and politics. By restricting or even banning ride sharing, they are slowing it's growth but it is the customers who ultimately will determine the winner in this game, and they are voting with their dollars.
5. Acceptance and	A portion of the conventional car service business adjusted to the new reality,
Adjustment	sometimes because they realize that it is a fight that is unwinnable and sometimes because the financial hill is getting steeper to climb.
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Valuing a Disruptor

- No history, large losses, small or no revenues: In general, valuing disruptors is difficult because they tend to be small, money losing and with little or no history.
- Business model in flux: With many disruptors, there is no workable business model in place (yet).
- No models: There are no grown up examples that you can use as your basis for valuation.
- Disruption is easy, making money on disruption is hard: There is always the risk that while disruption may succeed, many disruptors (especially early ones) do not benefit from the disruption.

A Key Tool: Story Telling



Story versus Numbers: The Life Cycle



The Steps



My Story for Uber in June 2014

In June 2014, my initial narrative for Uber was that it would be

- 1. <u>An urban car service business</u>: I saw Uber primarily as a force in urban areas and only in the car service business.
- 2. Which would expand the business moderately (about 40% over ten years) by bringing in new users.
- 3. <u>With local networking benefits</u>: If Uber becomes large enough in any city, it will quickly become larger, but that will be of little help when it enters a new city.
- 4. Maintain its revenue sharing (20%) system due to strong <u>competitive advantages</u> (from being a first mover).
- 5. And <u>its existing low-capital business model</u>, with drivers as contractors and very little investment in infrastructure.

Connecting Stories to Inputs



The Uber narrative (June 2014)

And inputs to value



And your story will change over time...

Narrative Break/End	Narrative Shift	Narrative Change (Expansion or Contraction)
Events, external (legal, political or economic) or internal (management, competitive, default), that can cause the narrative to break or end.	Improvement or deterioration in initial business model, changing market size, market share and/or profitability.	Unexpected entry/success in a new market or unexpected exit/failure in an existing market.
Your valuation estimates (cash flows, risk, growth & value) are no longer operative	Your valuation estimates will have to be modified to reflect the new data about the company.	Valuation estimates have to be redone with new overall market potential and characteristics.
Estimate a probability that it will occur & consequences	Monte Carlo simulations or scenario analysis	Real Options

Dealing with the Disrupted

- When valuing companies that are being disrupted, you have to use both intrinsic value and pricing tools more flexibly, often changing established practices.
- □ In discounted cash flow valuation, this will require
 - Telling stories that are dark and with no good ending
 - Allowing revenues to decline over time and margins to shrink
 - Ending your valuation with a liquidation rather than a terminal value, or having a terminal value with a negative growth rate.
- In pricing, you will need to adjust your pricing metric for the characteristics of your company. You have to be able to estimate what the PE or EV/EBITDA should be for a risky, negative growth firm. You can use either:
 - Intrinsic multiple models (where you link the multiple to company characteristics)
 - Statistical tools, where you compare PE ratios for companies in a sector, controlling for differences in growth and risk.

Winners and Losers: Uber's Rise = Taxi Cab's Fall



Valuing the Disrupted: A More Depressing Exercise

- Long history, but not relevant: Disrupted companies often have long and profitable histories. Those histories, though, may not be useful in valuing these companies.
- Mean reversion will fail you: Any valuation built on extrapolation of the past will find these companies to be:
 - Under valued, if you use intrinsic value models
 - Under priced, based upon pricing metrics (PE, EV/EBITDA)
- <u>Value Traps</u>: Investing in them on the basis of extrapolating the past will give you value traps that will continue to look cheap and get even cheaper, the longer you hold them.

To value the disrupted, be ready to break the rules, but not first principles...

- Revenues may, and often will, shrink: While we almost automatically assume that revenues and earnings will grow, at least in the near term, that assumption can be a dangerous one.
- Margins will continue to come under pressure: By the same token, there will be no quick bounceback in margins to historical levels.
- And how management reacts to disruption can have a significant effect on value: Management can go into denial and continue to do what they have always done, which will accelerate value destruction, or learn to live with disruption, which may lead to a much smaller company.

The Disruption of Retail...



And a valuation of JC Penney in 2016...

Declining business: Revenues expected to drop by 3% a year fo next 5 years, and then contine to drop in perpetuity														Margins improve											
		Base year		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	Terr	ninal year	gradually to
Revenue growth rate			-	3.00%	-	3.00%	-	3.00%	-3	.00%	-	3.00%	-	-3.40%	•	-4.04%	-	4.62%	_4	.92%	-	5.00%	-	5.00%	US retail
Revenues		\$ 12,522	\$	12,146	\$	11,782	\$	11,428	\$	11,086	\$	10,753	\$	10,387	\$	9,968	\$	9,508	\$	9,040	\$	8,588	\$	8,158	sector
EBIT (Operating) margin	1	1.32%		1.82%		2.31%		2.80%	3	.29%		3.79%		4.28%		4.77%		5.26%	5	.76%	(6.25%	(6.25%	(6.25%)
EBIT (Operating income))	\$ 166	\$	221	\$	272	\$	320	\$	365	\$	407	\$	444	\$	476	\$	501	\$	520	\$	537	\$	510	
Tax rate		35.00%	3	5.00%	3	5.00%	3	35.00%	35	.00%	3	35.00%	3	36.00%	ст.	37.00%	3	38.00%	39	9.00%	4	0.00%	4	0.00%	As stores
EBIT(1-t)		\$ 108	\$	143	\$	177	\$	208	\$	237	\$	265	\$	284	\$	300	\$	310	\$	317	\$	322	\$	306	shut down,
- Reinvestment			\$	(188)	\$	(182)	\$	(177)	\$	(171)	\$	(166)	\$	(183)	\$	(210)	\$	(230)	\$	(234)	\$	(226)	\$	(127)	released from
FCFF			\$	331	\$	359	\$	385	\$	409	\$	431	\$	467	\$	509	\$	540	\$	552	\$	548	\$	433	real estate.
NOL		\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
Cost of capital			(9.00%	9	9.00%		9.00%	9	.00%		9.00%		8.80%		8.60%		8.40%	8	.20%	8	8.00%	8	8.00%	9% higher
Cumulated discount facto	or		().9174	(0.8417	(0.7722	0	7084	().6499	(0.5974	1	0.5501	(0.5074	0	.4690	().4342			because of
PV(FCFF)			\$	304	\$	302	\$	297	\$	290	\$	280	\$	279	\$	280	\$	274	\$	259	\$	238			high cost of
																									debt.
PV(Terminal value)		\$ 3,136.70																							
PV (CF over next 10 year	ars)	\$ 2,802.95		High	doł	ot lood		nd noc	r o	ornin	10	nut													
Sum of PV		\$ 5,939.65		surviv	al	at risk	B	ased o	n e n h	ond	js ati	na.													
Probability of failure =		20.00%	2	0% ch	an	ce of f	ail	ure an	d li	quida	tio	n will													
Proceeds if firm fails =		\$2,969.82			brir	ng in 5	0%	6 of bo	ok	value	,														
Value of operating assets	5 =	\$ 5,345.68																							

JC Penney in 2016: Road to Nowhere?

Facing up to Uncertainty

Facing up to uncertainty

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- <u>Uncertainty abounds</u>: When valuing disruptors or the disrupted, there will be considerable uncertainty about the future. That uncertainty will be immune to more data collection or bigger models.
- From Denial to Acceptance: Rather than hide from that reality, it is healthiest to face up to the uncertainty in both your inputs and your output.
 - Learn to live with it: Doing so will not make uncertainty go away but will make you recognize how much of your company's value is not in your hands and depends on the market's fickle nature.

The not-so-revolutionary way to deal with uncertainty: Monte Carlo Simulations

Value Simulation: The Steps





Twitter in October 2013: A Simulation

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Investing Payoff? Amazon in October 2018



Distributional Awareness...

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²⁹ Macro Change and Disruption

I. Macro Input Shifts

- When valuing companies or assets, there are macro inputs that have an effect on value (risk free rates, risk premiums and exchange rates, to name just three) that we use.
- When the current values of these inputs deviate from what we "expect them to be", we become uncomfortable and then take actions to make the discomfort go away by normalizing them, with normal often reflecting either a blind trust in mean reversion or personal experience.

1a. Risk free Rates



An intrinsic risk free rate...



Negative Risk free Rates: A New Age?



The Currency Effect





1b. Risk Premiums

- If investors are risk averse, they need inducement to invest in risky assets. That inducement takes the form of a risk premium, a premium you would demand over and above the riskfree asset to invest in a risky asset.
- Every risky asset market has a "risk" premium that determines how individual assets in that market are priced.
 - In an equity market, that risk premium for dealing with the volatility of equities and bearing the residual risk is the equity risk premium.
 - In the bond market, the risk premium for being exposed to default risk is the default spread.
 - In real asset markets, there are equivalent (though less widely publicized markets).

There is a lot of history... But can it be trusted?

	Arithme	tic Average	Geometric Average				
	Stocks - T. Bills	Stocks - T. Bonds	Stocks - T. Bills	Stocks - T. Bonds			
1928-2018	7.93%	6.26%	6.11%	4.66%			
Std Error	2.09%	2.22%					
1969-2018	6.34%	4.00%	5.01%	3.04%			
Std Error	2.38%	2.71%					
2009-2018	13.00%	11.21%	12.48%	11.00%			
Std Error	3.71%	5.50%					

- If you are going to use a historical risk premium, make it
 - Long term (because of the standard error)
 - Consistent with your risk free rate
 - A "compounded" average
- No matter which estimate you use, recognize that it is backward looking, is noisy and may reflect selection bias

A forward looking, dynamic alternative?

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Implied Premiums in the US: 1960-2019



II. Market/Macro Crises

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 - In the bond market, the risk premium for being exposed to default risk is the default spread.
 - In real asset markets, there are equivalent (though less widely publicized markets).
- During a crises, the price of risk will rise and tracking it can provide a measure of how much the market is being affected by the crisis.

The Anatomy of a Crisis: Implied ERP from September 12, 2008 to January 1, 2009



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III. Macro Events

- In some cases, the macro uncertainty is about a specific event (trade war, Brexit, election) and how it will play out on individual company valuations.
- When that type of uncertainty exists, investors and analysts have to find better ways of dealing for that in valuation than just adjusting the discount rate, since the effects will not only be in the cash flows but vary across companies.
 - You can try to incorporate all of this risk into an expected cash flow and value the company, but since the value will depend on how the event will unfold, it is better to value the company under different scenarios.

Scenario Analysis

- Scenario analysis is best employed when the outcomes of a project are a function of the macro economic environment and/or competitive responses.
- There are a couple of ways in which you can structure scenario analysis
 - Best-case, Worst-case analyses: In its lease useful form, you value a company under best and worst case scenarios, where you set all the inputs at their most optimistic and most pessimistic levels. You then use the resulting wide range (which will almost certainly be wide enough to cover almost any price) as protective cover.
 - Plausible scenarios: Here, you define what you feel are the most plausible scenarios (allowing for the interaction across variables) and value the company under these scenarios. To complete the analysis, you then attach probabilities to the scenarios and value the company.

Valuing easyJet: Brexit's Consequences

	No Deal Brexit	Bad Deal Brexit	Soft or No Brexit
Restructuring cost	£500 million	£300 million	\$0
(up front)			
Revenue growth	3.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Operating Margin	6.00%	7.00%	8.00%
Sales to Capital	1.73	1.73	1.73
Ratio			

	No Deal Brexit	Delayed & Messy Brexit	Soft or No Brexit	
Probability	25%	50%	25%	
Value Per Share	£12.02	£15.70	£19.38	

Expected Value per share = $.25 (\pounds 12.02) + .50 (\pounds 15.70) + .25 (\pounds 19.38) = \pounds 15.70$

The Bottom Line

- Much as we would like to believe otherwise, disruption is neither new nor novel. It is part of how economies evolve and change.
- Disruption does create uncertainty but more importantly, it changes the underlying structure of businesses and entire economies.
- Those structural changes imply that investing, valuing or managing companies assuming that mean reversion always works and that mechanical models/ metrics are the answer is dangerous.