LIVING WITH NOISE: INVESTING IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTY

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Uncertainty is part of human existence, but we deal with it badly..

- Paralysis & Denial: When faced with uncertainty, some of us get paralyzed. Accompanying the paralysis is the hope that if you close your eyes to it, the uncertainty will go away
- Mental short cuts (rules of thumb): Behavioral economists note that investors faced with uncertainty adopt mental short cuts that have no basis in reality. And here is the clincher. More intelligent people are more likely to be prone to this.
- □ <u>Herding</u>: When in doubt, it is safest to go with the crowd.. The herding instinct is deeply engrained and very difficult to fight.
- Outsourcing: Assuming that there are experts out there who have the answers does take a weight off your shoulders, even if those experts have no idea of what they are talking about.
- Divine Intervention: Praying for intervention from a higher power is the oldest and most practiced risk management system of all.

Forecasting in the face of uncertainty. A test:

3

In which of these two cities would you find it easier to forecast the weather?

Weather changeability for Honolulu, Hawaii

Temperature	Last Month	Last Year
Average change in high temperature day-to-day	1.7°	1.2°
Average change in low temperature day-to-day	1.5°	2.0°

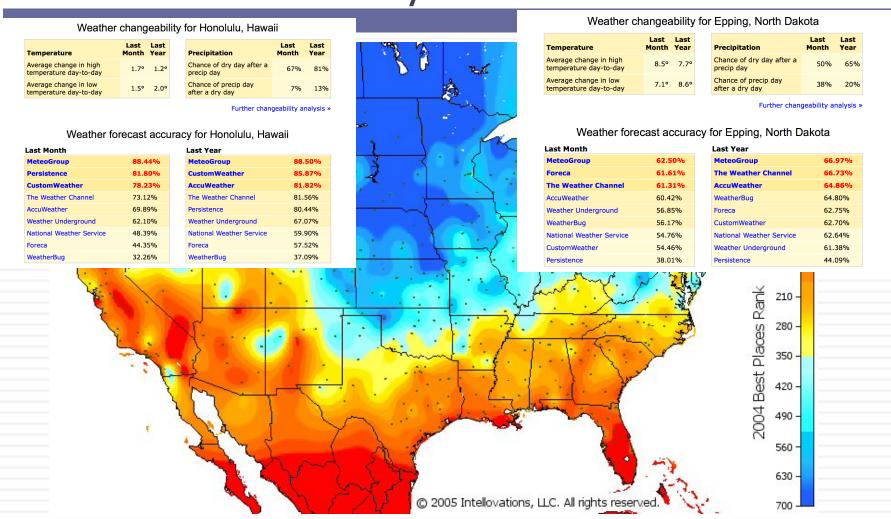
Precipitation	Last Month	Last Year
Chance of dry day after a precip day	67%	81%
Chance of precip day after a dry day	7%	13%

Weather changeability for Epping, North Dakota

Temperature	Last Month	
Average change in high temperature day-to-day	8.5°	7.7°
Average change in low temperature day-to-day	7.1°	8.6°

Precipitation	Last Month	Last Year
Chance of dry day after a precip day	50%	65%
Chance of precip day after a dry day	38%	20%

But the payoff is greatest where there is the most uncertainty...



5

The value of an asset is the present value of the expected cash flows on that asset, over its expected life:

Value of asset =
$$\frac{E(CF_1)}{(1+r)} + \frac{E(CF_2)}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{E(CF_3)}{(1+r)^3} + \dots + \frac{E(CF_n)}{(1+r)^n}$$

- The "IT" proposition: If IT does not affect the expected cash flows or the riskiness of the cash flows, IT cannot affect value.
- The "DUH" proposition: For an asset to have value, the expected cash flows have to be positive some time over the life of the asset.
- The "DON'T FREAK OUT" proposition: Assets that generate cash flows early in their life will be worth more than assets that generate cash flows later; the latter may however have greater growth and higher cash flows to compensate.

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

- Equity: Cashflows after debt payments
- Firm: Cashflows before debt payments,

What is the **value added** by growth assets? Equity: Growth in equity earnings/ cashflows Firm: Growth in operating earnings/ cashflows

How **risky are the cash flows** from both existing assets and growth assets? Equity: Risk in equity in the company Firm: Risk in the firm's operations

When will the firm become a **mature fiirm**, and what are the potential roadblocks?

The Set Up

The Valuation Intermediary

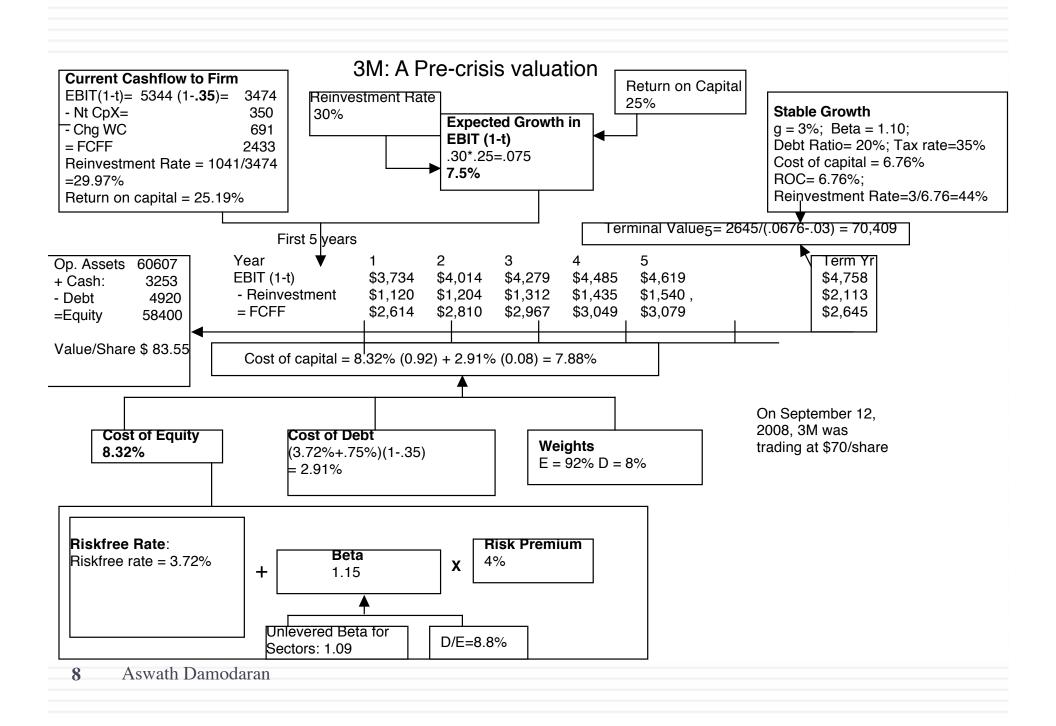
- Can talk both languages
- Connect narratives to numbers
- Bring discipline to both sides

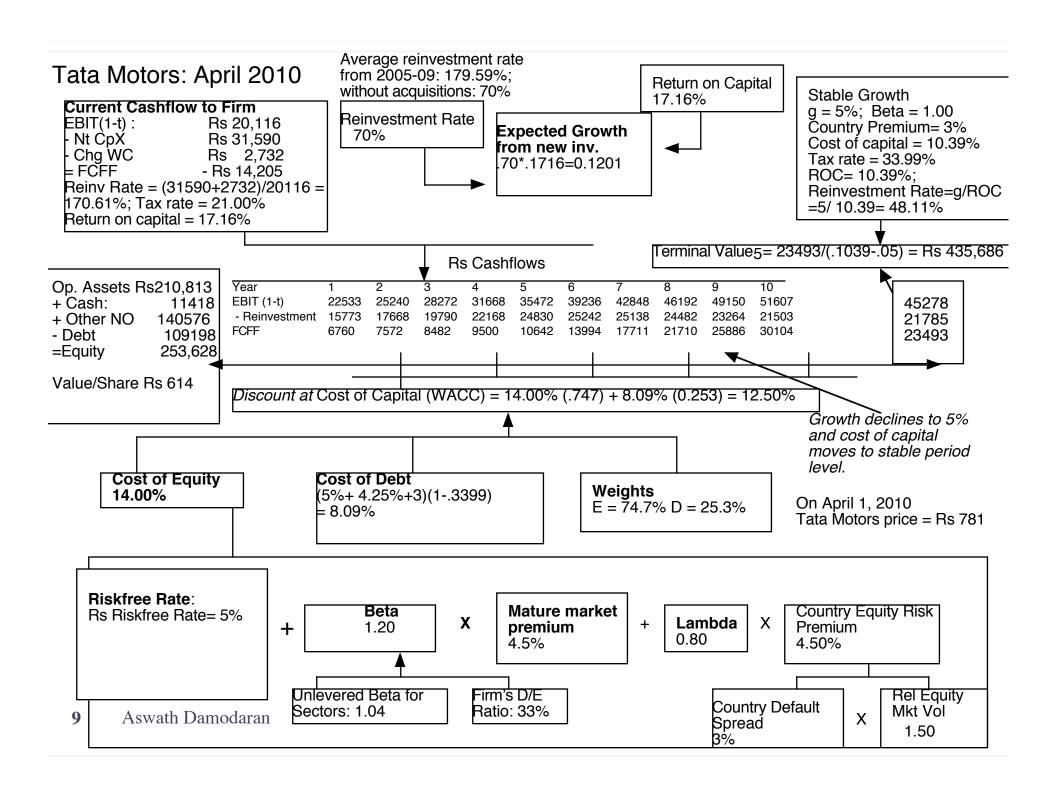
The Numbers People

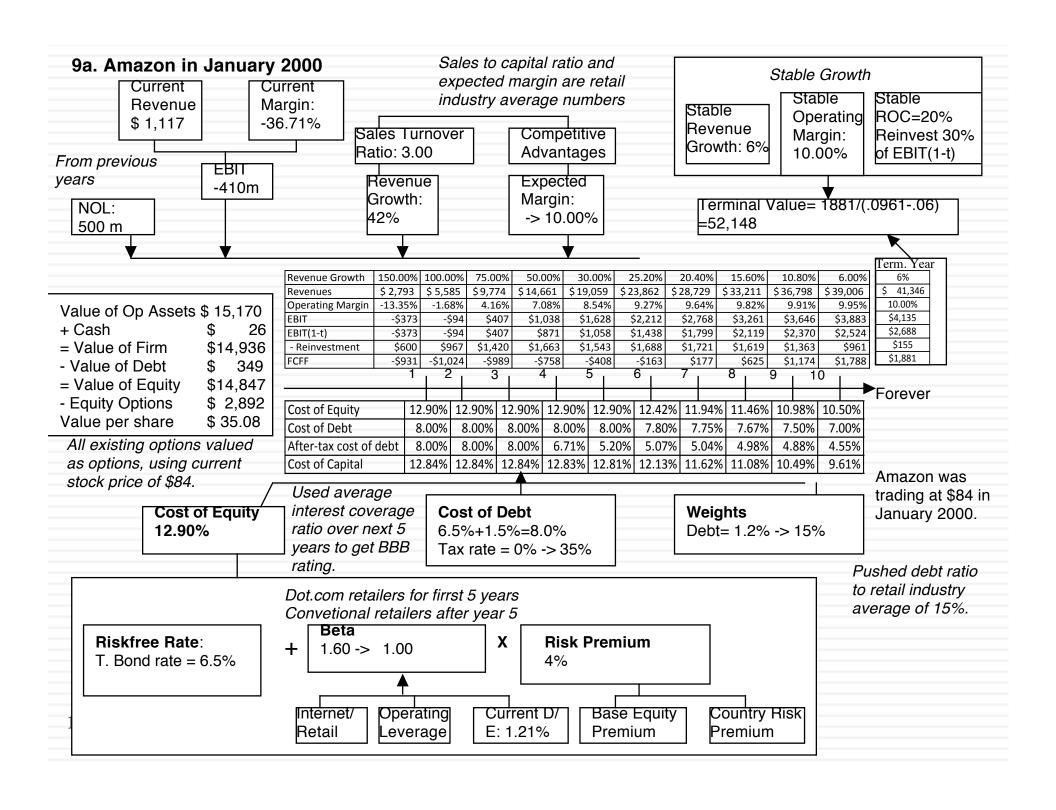
- Excel Ninjas
- Masters of Modeling
- Accounting Taskmasters

The Stories People

- Spinners of wondrous tales
 - Creative geniuses







Starting numbers

Twitter Pre-IPO Valuation: October 5, 2013

	2012	Trailing 2013
Revenues	\$316.9	\$448.2
Operating Income	-\$77.1	-\$92.9
Adj Op Inc		\$4.3
Invested Capital		\$549.1
Operating Margin		0.96%
Sales/Capital		0.82

Value/share

Revenue growth of 55% a year for 5 years, tapering down to 2.7% in year 10

Pre-tax operating margin increases to 25% over the next 10 years

Sales to capital ratio of 1.50 for incremental sales

6.15%

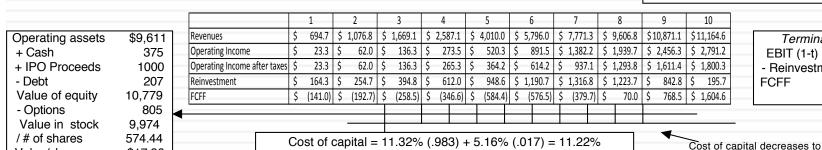
75% from US(5.75%) + 25% from rest of world (7.23%)

Stable Growth

g = 2.7%; Beta = 1.00; Cost of capital = 8% ROC= **12**%; Reinvestment Rate=2.7%/12% = 22.5%

Terminal $Value_{10} = 1433/(.08-.027) = 27.036

8% from years 6-10



Beta

1.40

90% advertising

(1.44) + 10% info svcs (1.05)

+

 Terminal year (11)

 EBIT (1-t)
 \$1,849

 - Reinvestment
 \$ 416

 FCFF
 \$1,433

Cost of Equity
11.32%

Cost of Debt
(2.7%+5.3%)(1-.40)
= 5.16%

Risk Premium

X

D/E=1.71%

On October 5, 2013, Twitter had not been priced yet, but the company's most recent acquisition suggested a price of about \$20/share.

1 Aswath Damodaran

Riskfree Rate:

Riskfree rate = 2.7%

The sources of uncertainty

- Estimation versus Economic uncertainty
 - Estimation uncertainty reflects the possibility that you could have the "wrong model" or estimated inputs incorrectly within this model.
 - Economic uncertainty comes the fact that markets and economies can change over time and that even the best medals will fail to capture these unexpected changes.
- □ Micro uncertainty versus Macro uncertainty
 - <u>Micro uncertainty</u> refers to uncertainty about the potential market for a firm's products, the competition it will face and the quality of its management team.
 - <u>Macro uncertainty</u> reflects the reality that your firm's fortunes can be affected by changes in the macro economic environment.
- □ Discrete versus continuous uncertainty
 - Discrete risk: Risks that lie dormant for periods but show up at points in time. (Examples: A drug working its way through the FDA pipeline may fail at some stage of the approval process or a company in Venezuela may be nationalized)
 - Continuous risk: Risks changes in interest rates or economic growth occur continuously and affect value as they happen.

Assessing uncertainty...

- Rank the four firms in terms of uncertainty (least to most) in your estimate:
 - ■3M in 2007
 - Tata Motors in 2010
 - Amazon in 2000
 - Twitter in 2013
- With each company, specify the type of uncertainty that you face:

Company	Estimation or Economic	Micro or Macro	Discrete or Continuous
3M (2007)			
Tata Motors (2010)			
Amazon (2000)			
Twitter (2013)			

Ten suggestions for dealing with uncertainty...

- Less is more (the rule on detail....) (Revenue & margin forecasts)
- 2. Build in internal checks on reasonableness... (reinvestment and ROC)
- 3. Use the offsetting principle (risk free rates & inflation at Tata Motors)
- 4. Draw on economic first principles (Terminal value at all the companies)
- Use the "market" as a crutch (equity risk premiums, country risk premiums)
- 6. Use the law of large numbers (Beta for all companies
- 7. Don't let the discount rate become the receptacle for all uncertainties.
- 8. Confront uncertainty, if you can
- 9. Don't look for precision
- 10. You can live with mistakes, but bias will kill you...

1. Less is more

Year	Revenue Growth	Sales	Operating Margin	EBIT	EBIT (1-t)
Tr 12 mths		\$1,117	-36.71%	-\$410	-\$410
1	150.00%	\$2,793	-13.35%	-\$373	-\$373
2	100.00%	\$5,585	-1.68%	-\$94	-\$94
3	75.00%	\$9,774	4.16%	\$407	\$407
4	50.00%	\$14,661	7.08%	\$1,038	\$871
5	30.00%	\$19,059	8.54%	\$1,628	\$1,058
6	25.20%	\$23,862	9.27%	\$2,212	\$1,438
7	20.40%	\$28,729	9.64%	\$2,768	\$1,799
8	15.60%	\$33,211	9.82%	\$3,261	\$2,119
9	10.80%	\$36,798	9.91%	\$3,646	\$2,370
10	6.00%	\$39,006	9.95%	\$3,883	\$2,524
TY	6.00%	\$41,346	10.00%	\$4,135	\$2,688

Use "auto pilot" approaches to estimate future years

Principle of parsimony: Estimate fewer inputs when faced with uncertainty.

A tougher task at Twitter

	20	2011		2012		13
	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Google	32.09%	\$27.74	31.46%	\$32.73	33.24%	\$38.83
Facebook	3.65%	\$3.15	4.11%	\$4.28	5.04%	\$5.89
Yahoo!	3.95%	\$3.41	3.37%	\$3.51	3.10%	\$3.62
Microsoft	1.27%	\$1.10	1.63%	\$1.70	1.78%	\$2.08
IAC	1.15%	\$0.99	1.39%	\$1.45	1.47%	\$1.72
AOL	1.17%	\$1.01	1.02%	\$1.06	0.95%	\$1.11
Amazon	0.48%	\$0.41	0.59%	\$0.61	0.71%	\$0.83
Pandora	0.28%	\$0.24	0.36%	\$0.37	0.50%	\$0.58
Twitter	0.16%	\$0.14	0.28%	\$0.29	0.50%	\$0.58
Linkedin	0.18%	\$0.16	0.25%	\$0.26	0.32%	\$0.37
Millennial Media	0.05%	\$0.04	0.07%	\$0.07	0.10%	\$0.12
Other	55.59%	\$48.05	55.47%	\$57.71	52.29%	\$61.09
Total Market	100%	\$86.43	100.00%	\$104.04	100.00%	\$116.82

My estimate for 2023: Overall market will be close to \$200 billion and Twitter will about 5.7% (\$11.5 billion)

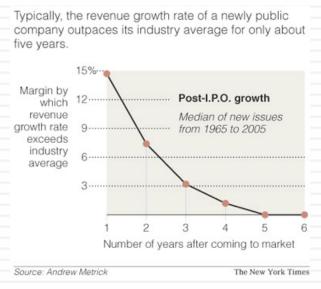
2. Build in "internal" checks for reasonableness...

Year	Revenues	Δ Revenue	Sales/Cap	∆ Investment	Inve	sted Capital	EBIT (1-t)	Imputed ROC
Tr 12 mths	\$1,117				\$	487	-\$410	
1	\$2,793	\$1,676	3.00	\$559	\$	1,045	-\$373	-76.62%
2	\$5,585	\$2,793	3.00	\$931	\$	1,976	-\$94	-8.96%
3	\$9,774	\$4,189	3.00	\$1,396	\$	3,372	\$407	20.59%
4	\$14,661	\$4,887	3.00	\$1,629	\$	5,001	\$871	25.82%
5	\$19,059	\$4,398	3.00	\$1,466	\$	6,467	\$1,058	21.16%
6	\$23,862	\$4,803	3.00	\$1,601	\$	8,068	\$1,438	22.23%
7	\$28,729	\$4,868	3.00	\$1,623	\$	9,691	\$1,799	22.30%
8	\$33,211	\$4,482	3.00	\$1,494	\$	11,185	\$2,119	21.87%
9	\$36,798	\$3,587	3.00	\$1,196	\$	12,380	\$2,370	21.19%
10	\$39,006	\$2,208	3.00	\$736	\$	13,116	\$2,524	20.39%
TY	\$41,346	\$2,340	NA			Assumed to	be =	20.00%

Check total revenues, relative to the market that it serves... Your market share obviously cannot exceed 100% but there may be tighter constraints. Are the margins and imputed returns on capital 'reasonable' in the outer years?

Follow up propositions on growth...

- If you accept the proposition that growth has to come from either increased efficiency (improving return on capital on existing assets) and new investments (reinvestment rate & return on capital):
 - High growth is easy to deliver, high quality growth is more difficult.
 - Scaling up is hard to do, i.e., growth is more difficult to sustain as companies get larger.



3. Use consistency tests...

- While you can not grade a valuation on "correctness" (since different analysts can make different assumptions about growth and risk), you can grade it on consistency.
- □ For a valuation to be consistent, your estimates of cash flows have to be consistent with your discount rate definition.
 - Equity versus Firm: If the cash flows being discounted are cash flows to equity, the appropriate discount rate is a cost of equity. If the cash flows are cash flows to the firm, the appropriate discount rate is the cost of capital.
 - Currency: The currency in which the cash flows are estimated should also be the currency in which the discount rate is estimated.
 - Nominal versus Real: If the cash flows being discounted are nominal cash flows (i.e., reflect expected inflation), the discount rate should be nominal

Tata Motors: In Rupees and US dollars

(1.125)*(1.01/1.04)-1 = .0925

		0.071 - 0.072
	In Indian Rupees	In US \$
Risk free Rate	5.00%	2.00%
Expected inflation rate	4.00%	1.00%

 High Growth 	12.50%	9.25%
 Stable Growth 	10.39%	7.21%

Expected growth rate		
- High Growth	12.01%	8.78%

- Stable Growth	5.00%	2.00%
Return on Capital		

-	High Growth	17.16%	13.78%
_	Stable Growth	10.39%	7.21%

Stable diowth	10.5770	7.21/0
Value per share	Rs 614	\$12.79/share (roughly Rs
		614 at current exchange
		rate)

Cost of capital

4. Draw on economic first principles and mathematical limits...

- When doing valuation, you are free to make assumptions about how your company will evolve over time in the market that it operates, but you are not free to violate first principles in economics and mathematics.
- Put differently, there are assumptions in valuation that are either mathematically impossible or violate first laws of economics and cannot be ever justified.

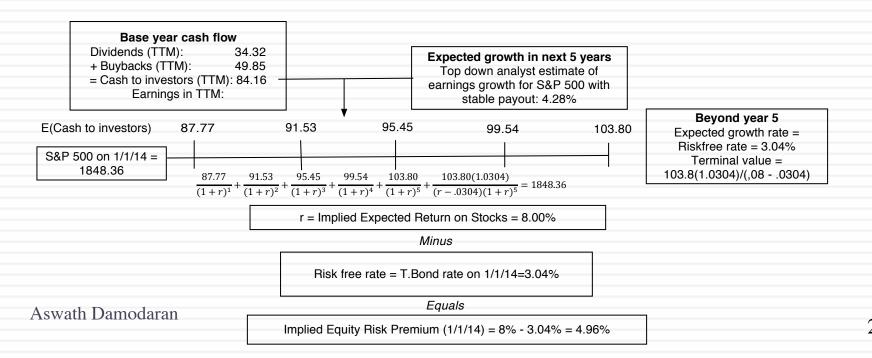
And the "excess return" effect...

Stable growth rate	3M	Tata Motors	Amazon	Twitter
0%	\$70,409	435,686₹	\$26,390	\$23,111
1%	\$70,409	435,686₹	\$28,263	\$24,212
2%	\$70,409	435,686₹	\$30,595	\$25,679
3%	\$70,409	435,686₹	\$33,594	
4%		435,686₹	\$37,618	
5%		435,686₹	\$43,334	
			\$52,148	
Riskfree rate	3.72%	5%	6.60%	2.70%
ROIC	6.76%	10.39%	20%	12.00%
Cost of capital	6.76%	10.39%	9.61%	8.00%

5. Use the market as a crutch... ERP as an illustration

	Arithmet	cic Average	Geometr	ic Average
	Stocks - T. Bills Stocks - T. Bonds S		Stocks - T. Bills	Stocks - T. Bonds
1928-2013	7.93%	6.29%	6.02%	4.62%
Std Error	2.19%	2.34%		
1964-2013	6.18%	4.32%	4.83%	3.33%
Std Error	2.42%	2.75%		
2004-2013	7.55%	4.41%	5.80%	3.07%
Std Error	6.02%	8.66%		

Historical premium



EDD. Ion 2017	LINE Jan 2014
	nada
	ited State
No	rth Amer
	Argentina
	Belize
	Bolivia
	Brazil
	Chile
	Colombia
	Costa Ric
	Ecuador
	El Salvad
	Guatemal
	Honduras Mayiga
	Mexico
	Nicaragua Panama
	Panama

	1		1		
Andorra	6.80%	1.80%	Liechtenstein	5.00%	0.00%
Austria	5.00%	0.00%	Luxembourg	5.00%	0.00%
Belgium	5.90%	0.90%	Malta	6.80%	1.80%
Cyprus	20.00%	15.00%	Netherlands	5.00%	0.00%
Denmark	5.00%	0.00%	Norway	5.00%	0.00%
Finland	5.00%	0.00%	Portugal	10.40%	5.40%
France	5.60%	0.60%	Spain	8.30%	3.30%
Germany	5.00%	0.00%	Sweden	5.00%	0.00%
Greece	20.00%	15.00%	Switzerland	5.00%	0.00%
Iceland	8.30%	3.30%	Turkey	8.30%	3.30%
Ireland	8.75%	3.75%	United Kingdom	5.60%	0.60%
Italy	7.85%	2.85%	Western Europe	6.29%	1.29%
	1		13		(

Canada	5	.00%	0.00%
United States of America	5	.00%	0.00%
North America	5	.00%	0.00%

		COLUMN TO SECURE
Argentina	14.75%	9.75%
Belize	18.50%	13.50%
Bolivia	10.40%	5.40%
Brazil	7.85%	2.85%
Chile	5.90%	0.90%
Colombia	8.30%	3.30%
Costa Rica	8.30%	3.30%
Ecuador	16.25%	11.25%
El Salvador	10.40%	5.40%
Guatemala	8.75%	3.75%
Honduras	13.25%	8.25%
Mexico	7.40%	2.40%
Nicaragua	14.75%	9.75%
Panama	7.85%	2.85%
Paraguay	10.40%	5.40%
Peru	7.85%	2.85%
Suriname	10.40%	5.40%
Uruguay	8.30%	3.30%
Venezuela	16.25%	11.25%
Latin America	8.62%	3.62%

vestern Europ	C 0.27 /	(
A Carlo	10.40%	5 4007
Angola		5.40%
Benin	13.25%	8.25%
Botswana	6.28%	1.28%
Burkina Faso	13.25%	8.25%
Cameroon	13.25%	8.25%
Cape Verde	13.25%	8.25%
DR Congo	14.75%	9.75%
Egypt 📥	16.25%	11.25%
€ abon	10.40%	5.40%
Ghana	11.75%	6.75%
Kenya	11.75%	6.75%
Morocco	8.75%	3.75%
Mozambique	11.75%	6.75%
Namibia	8.30%	3.30%
Nigeria	10.40%	5.40%
Rep Congo	10.40%	5.40%
Rwanda	13.25%	8.25%
Senegal	11.75%	6.75%
South Africa	7.40%	2.40%
Tunisia	10.40%	5.40%
Uganda	11.75%	6.75%
Zambia	11.75%	6.75%
Africa	10.04%	5.04%

	Albania	11.75%	6.75%
	Armenia	9.50%	4.50%
	Azerbaijan	8.30%	3.30%
	Belarus	14.75%	9.75%
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	14.75%	9.75%
	Bulgaria	7.85%	2.85%
	Croatia /	8.75%	3.75%
,	Czech Republic	6.05%	1.05%
	Estonia	6.05%	1.05%
Ó	Georgia	10.40%	5.40%
2	Hungary	8.75%	3.75%
	Kazakhstan	7.85%	2.85%
	Latvia	7.85%	2.85%
1	Lithuania	7.40%	2.40%
J	Macedonia	10.40%	5.40%
1	Moldova	4 4.75%	9.75%
	Montenegro	10.40%	5.40%
	Poland	6.28%	1.28%
	Romania	8.30%	3.30%
	Russia	7.40%	2.40%
	Serbia	11.75%	6.75%
	Slovakia	6.28%	1.28%
1	Slovenia	8.75%	3.75%
	Ukraine / /	16.25%	11.25%
3	E. Europe & Russia	7.96%	2.96%
	•/		
			-

United Arab Emirates

Middle East

Bangladesh	10.40%	5.40%
Cambodia	13.25%	8.25%
China	5.90%	0.90%
Fiji	11.75%	6.75%
Hong Kong	5.60%	0.60%
India	8.30%	3.30%
Indonesia	8.30%	3.30%
Japan 🕏	5.90%	0.90%
Korea M	5.90%	0.90%
Macao	5.90%	0.90%
Malaysia	6.80%	1.80%
Mauritius	7.40%	2.40%
Mong o lia	11.75%	6.75%
akistan	16.25%	11.25%
Papua New Guinea	11.75%	6.75%
Philippines	8.30%	3.30%
Singapore	5.00%	0.00%
Sri Lanka	11.75%	6.75%
Гаiwan	5.90%	0.90%
Γhailand	7.40%	2.40%
Vietnam	13.25%	8.25%
Asia	6.51%	1.51%

Red #: Country risk premium

AVG: GDP weighted average

•/		30	01.		
Abu Dhabi	5.75%	0.75%	Australia	5.00%	0.00%
Bahrain	7.85%	2.85%	Cook Islands	11.75%	6.75%
Israel	6.05%	1.05%	New Zealand	5.00%	0.00%
Jordan	11.75%	6.75%	Australia & New		
Kuwait	5.75%	0.75%	Zealand	5.00%	0.00%
Lebanon	11.75%	6.75%			
Oman	6.05%	1.05%			
Qatar	5.75%	0.75%			
Saudi Arabia	5.90%	0.90%	Black #: Tota	l ERP	

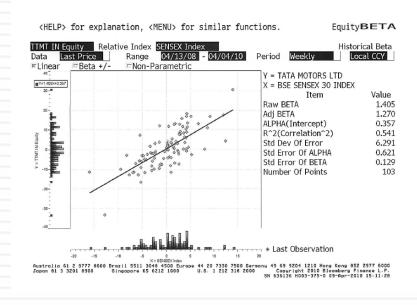
0.75%

1.14%

5.75%

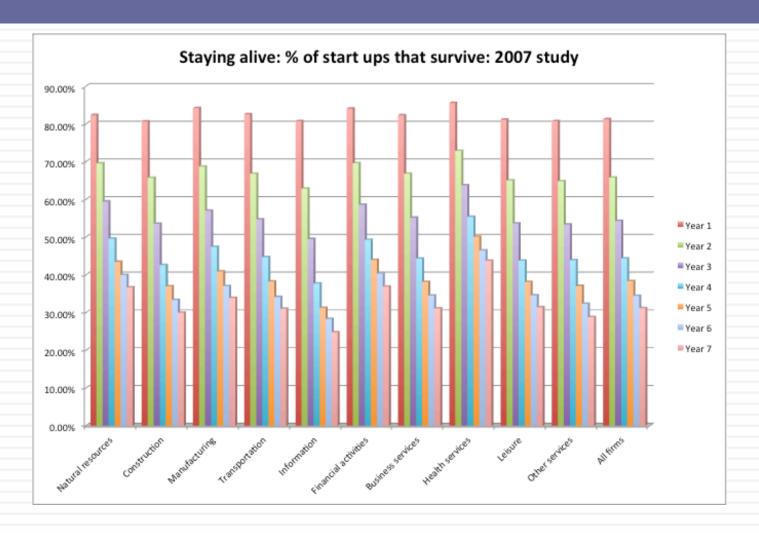
6.14%

6. Draw on the law of large numbers...



- To estimate the beta for Tata Motors
 - Unlevered beta for automobile company = 0.98
 - D/E ratio for Tata Motors = 33.87%
 - Marginal tax rate in India = 33.99%
 - Levered beta = 0.98 (1+ (1-.3399)(.3387)) = 1.20

7. Don't let the discount rate become the receptacle for all your uncertainty...



Contrasting ways of dealing with survival risk...

- The Venture Capital approach: In the venture capital approach, you hike the "discount rate" well above what would be appropriate for a going concern and then use this "target" rate to discount your "exit value" (which is estimated using a multiple and forward earnings).
 - Value = (Forward Earnings in year n * Exit multiple)/ (1+ target rate)ⁿ
- The decision tree approach:
 - Value the business as a "going concern", with a rate of return appropriate for a "going concern".
 - Estimate the probability of survival (and failure) and the value of the business in the event of failure.
 - Value = Going concern value (Probability of survival) + Liquidation value (Probability of failure)

Exhibit 8.2: Valuing a Distressed firm: Las Vegas Sands in early 2009

Las Vegas Sands owns and operates the Venetian Casino and Sands Convention Center in Las Vegas and the Sands Macau Casino in Macau, China. While the revenues increased from \$1.75 billion in 2005 to \$4.39 billion in 2008 and it had two other casinos in development - it ran into significant financial trouble in the last quarter of 2008. Fears about whether the firm would be able to meet its debt obligations pushed down both stock prices (almost 90%) and bond prices (about 40%) in 2008.

Limited revenue growth (1) Distress makes it difficult to build new casinos. So growth has to come from existing casinos.

Tax rate ③ As tax benefits from investements fade and profits come back, tax rate rises to marginal tax rate.

Curtailed reinvestment (4) Difficulty in raising new capital and debt repayment needs reduce cash available for reinvestment, at least for near term.

Return to financial health (5) High debt ratio pushed up cost of equity and capital. As debt is repaid, debt ratio decreases and cost of capital drops.

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Year	Revenue growth	Revenues	Operating Margin	Operating Income	Tax rate	After-tax Operating Income	Reinvestment Rate	Reinvestment	FCFF	Debt Ratio	Cost of capital	Present Value
Current		\$4,390	4.76%	\$209	26.00%	\$155				73.50%		
1	1%	\$4,434	5.81%	\$258	26.00%	\$191	-10.00%	-\$19	\$210	73.50%	9.88%	\$191
2	2%	\$4,523	6.86%	\$310	26.00%	\$229	-5.00%	-\$11	\$241	73.50%	9.88%	\$200
3	20%	\$5,427	7.90%	\$429	26.00%	\$317	0.00%	\$0	\$317	73.50%	9.88%	\$239
- 4	20%	\$6,513	8.95%	\$583	26.00%	\$431	5.00%	\$22	\$410	73.50%	9.88%	\$281
- 5	20%	\$7,815	10.00%	\$782	26.00%	\$578	10.00%	\$58	\$520	73.50%	9.88%	\$325
- 6	5%	\$8,206	11.40%	\$935	28.40%	\$670	10.00%	\$67	\$603	68.80%	9.79%	\$343
7	5%	\$8,616	12.80%	\$1,103	30.80%	\$763	20.00%	\$153	\$611	64.10%	9.50%	\$317
- 8	5%	\$9,047	14.20%	\$1,285	33.20%	\$858	25.00%	\$215	\$644	59.40%	9.01%	\$307
9	5%	\$9,499	15.60%	\$1,482	35.60%	\$954	30.00%	\$286	\$668	54.70%	8.32%	\$294
10	5%	\$9,974	17.00%	\$1,696	38.00%	\$1,051	33.30%	\$350	\$701	50.00%	7.43%	\$7,298
Beyond	3%	\$10,273	17%	\$1,746	38.00%	1082.81468	33.30%	\$325	\$17,129	50.00%	7.43%	\$9,793
Value of	operating assets		•						_			\$19,587
(Add) Ca	sh		4							$\overline{}$		\$3,040
(Subtrac	t) Debt						rminal value(6)				\$7,565
Value of	equity								to			\$5,268.01
Value per share (going concern)				With return to health, back to growth 1051 (1.03)(130) = \$17,129					\$8.21			
Probability of going concern					gro	owth 1051 (1.0	3)(130)	0.7.10			71.75%	
Value pe	r share (distress)					9	4.08.44		: \$17,12	9 _	_	\$0.00
Probabili	ity of distress		/				(.0743	303)				28.25%

Return to operating health (2) Current margins are low. Operating margins improve as distress wanes and firm returns to health. The margin in year 11 is based on industry averages and the company's historical margins.

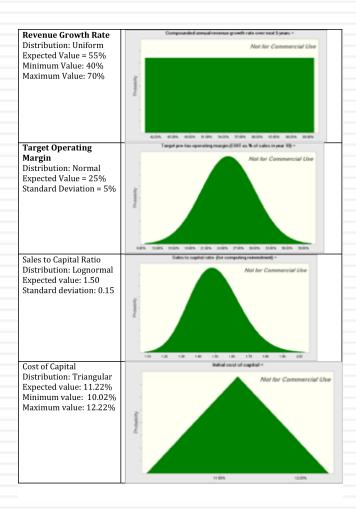
Distress adjusted Value per share

Distress sale value 8 If the firm is unable to make debt payments, there will be no value to equity.

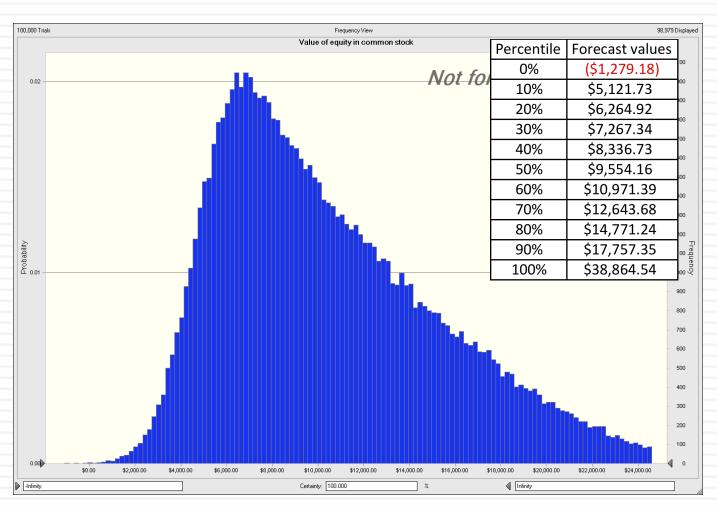
Risk of default

The high debt ratio makes default a very real probability. Given the company's rating (BB), history suggests a 28.25% probability of default within 10 years.

Default adjusted value Weighted average of going concern value and distress sale value: \$8.25(.7175)+\$0(.2125)

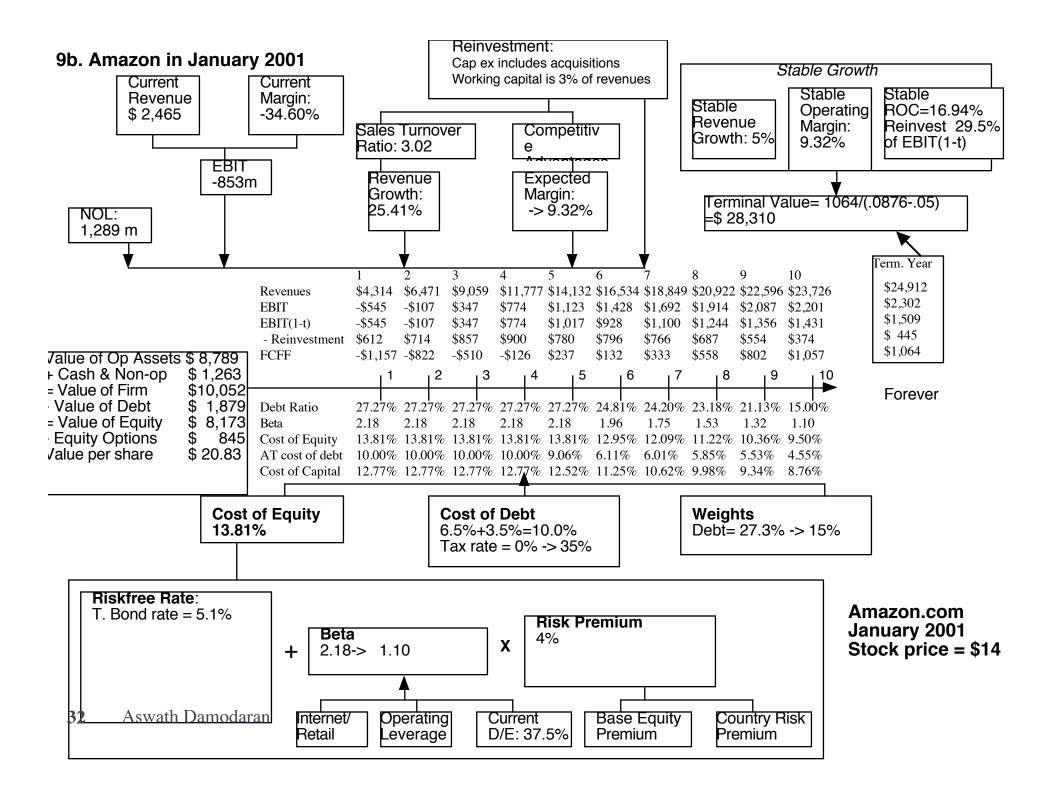


With the consequences for equity value...



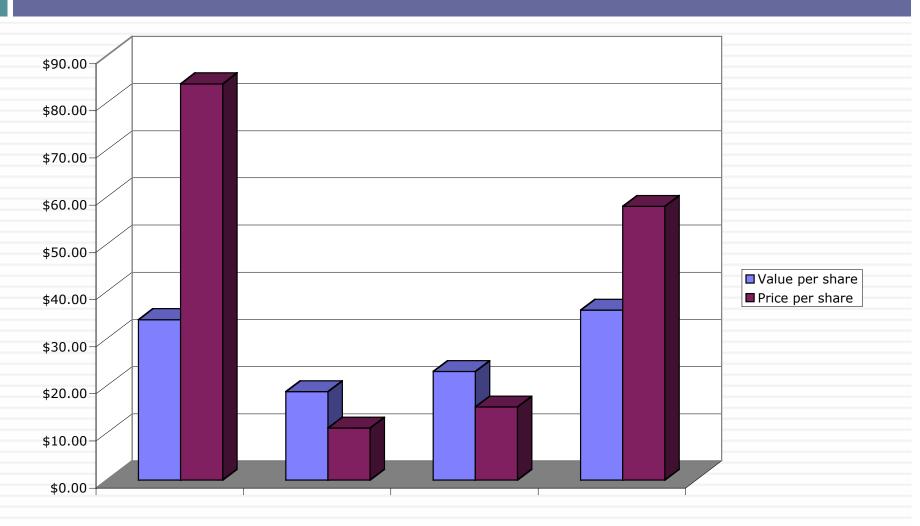
9. Don't look for precision..

- No matter how careful you are in getting your inputs and how well structured your model is, your estimate of value will change both as new information comes out about the company, the business and the economy.
- As information comes out, you will have to adjust and adapt your model to reflect the information.
 Rather than be defensive about the resulting changes in value, recognize that this is the essence of risk.



To illustrate: Your mistakes versus market mistakes..

33



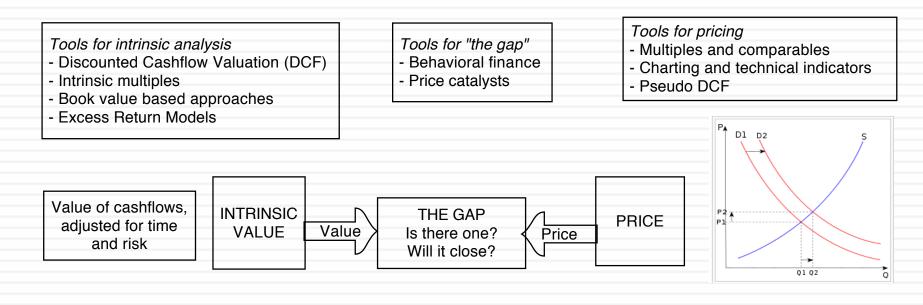
Aswath Damodaran

10. You can make mistakes, but try to keep bias out..

- When you are wrong on individual company valuations, as you inevitably will be, recognize that while those mistakes may cause the value to be very different from the price for an individual company, the mistakes should average out across companies.
 - Put differently, if you are an investor, you have can make the "law of large numbers" work for you by diversifying across companies, with the degree of diversification increasing as uncertainty increases.
- If you are "biased" on individual company valuations, your mistakes will not average out, no matter how diversified you get.
- Bottom line: You are better off making large mistakes and being unbiased than making smaller mistakes, with bias.

And don't forget: It is not just the value that you are uncertain about...

3



Drivers of intrinsic value

- Cashflows from existing assets
- Growth in cash flows
- Quality of Growth

Drivers of "the gap"

- Information
- Liquidity
- Corporate governance

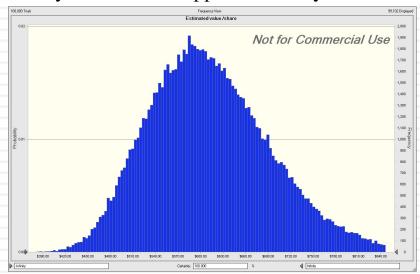
Drivers of price

- Market moods & momentum
- Surface stories about fundamentals

And here is how it plays out...

The value process

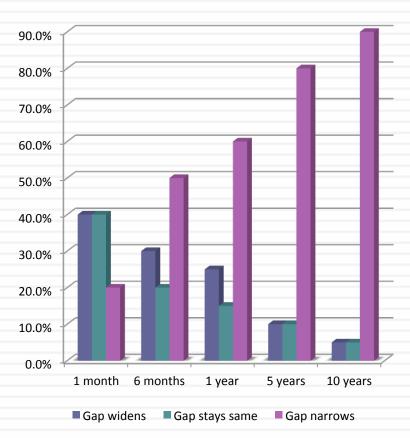
My valuation of Apple in January 2013



My valuation of Apple with revenue growth of 6% (Normal, σ =3%), target pre-tax margin of 30% (Uniform,25%-35%) and cost of capital of 12.5% (Triangle, 11-14%). There is a 90% chance that Apple is undervalued at \$440/share.

Aswath Damodaran

The Pricing Process: Apple



Strategies for managing the risk in the "closing" of the gap

- The "karmic" approach: In this one, you buy (sell short) under (over) valued companies and sit back and wait for the gap to close. You are implicitly assuming that given time, the market will see the error of its ways and fix that error.
- The catalyst approach: For the gap to close, the price has to converge on value. For that convergence to occur, there usually has to be a catalyst.
 - If you are an activist investor, you may be the catalyst yourself. In fact, your act of buying the stock may be a sufficient signal for the market to reassess the price.
 - If you are not, you have to look for other catalysts. Here are some to watch for: a new CEO or management team, a "blockbuster" new product or an acquisition bid where the firm is targeted.