Slouching towards Financial Honesty: Ten Truths I learned along the way

October 2016 Aswath Damodaran

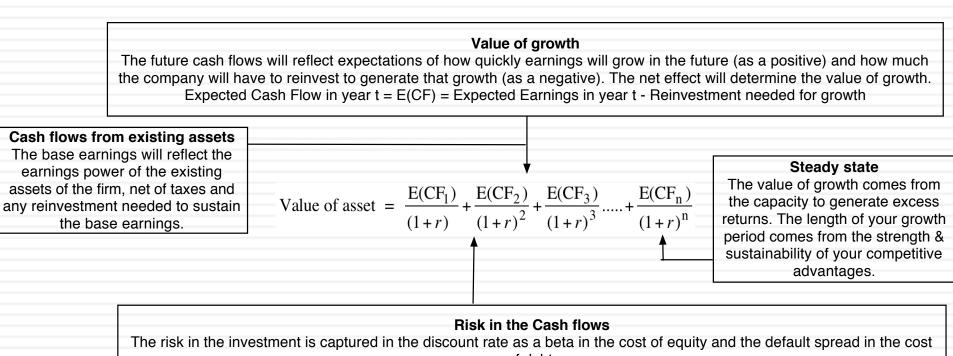
# 1. Valuation is simple



What are the cashflows from existing assets? - Equity: Cashflows after debt payments - Firm: Cashflows before debt payments	What is the <b>value added</b> by growth assets? Equity: Growth in equity earnings/ cashflows Firm: Growth in operating earnings/ cashflows How <b>risky are the cash flows</b> 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 <b>mature</b> <b>firm</b> , and what are the potential roadblocks?

### DCF as a tool for intrinsic valuation

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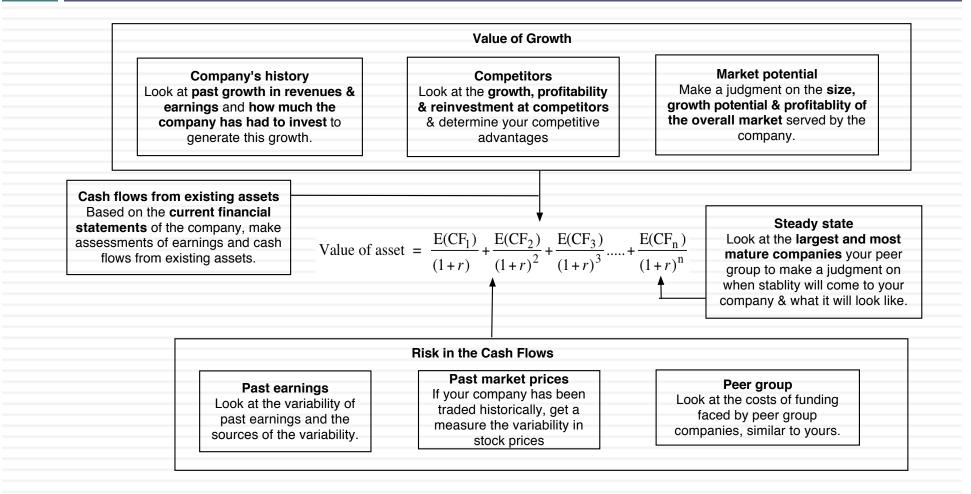
of debt.

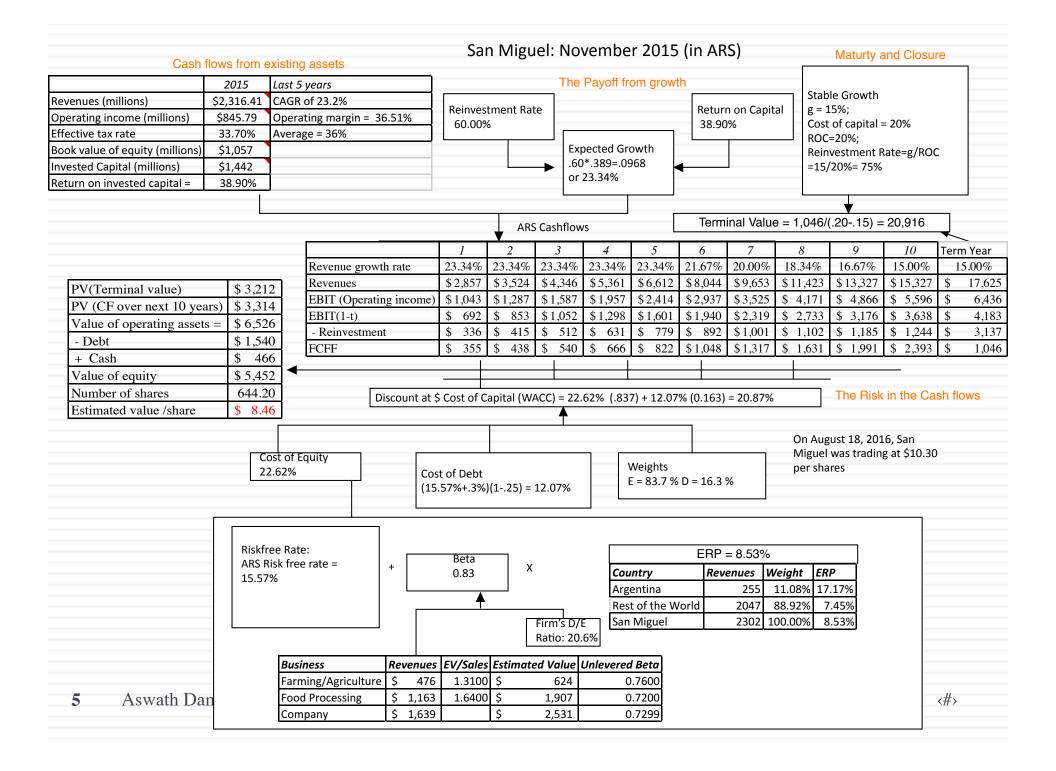
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# And when looking for information, look

# everywhere ..

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# 2. Uncertainty is a feature, not a bug.. And 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.

### Twitter: Priming the Pump for Valuation

### 1. Make small revenues into big revenues

### 2. Make losses into profits

	20	11	20	12	2013		
%		\$ %		\$	%	\$	
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	

Company	Operating Margin
Google Inc. (NasdaqGS:GOOG)	22.82%
Facebook, Inc. (NasdaqGS:FB)	29.99%
Yahoo! Inc. (NasdaqGS:YHOO)	13.79%
Netlfix	3.16%
Groupon	2.53%
LinkedIn Corporation (NYSE:LNKD)	5.18%
Pandora Media, Inc. (NYSE:P)	-9.13%
Yelp, Inc. (NYSE:YELP)	-6.19%
OpenTable, Inc. (NasdaqGS:OPEN)	24.90%
RetailMeNot	45.40%
Travelzoo Inc. (NasdaqGS:TZOO)	15.66%
Zillow, Inc. (NasdaqGS:Z)	-66.60%
Trulia, Inc. (NYSE:TRLA)	-6.79%
Aggregate	20.40%

		Annu	al growth rat	e in Global Aa	lvertising Spei	nding
		2.00%	2.50%	3.00%	3.50%	4.00%
Online	20%	\$124.78	\$131.03	\$137.56	\$144.39	\$151.52
advertising	25%	\$155.97	\$163.79	\$171.95	\$180.49	\$189.40
share of	30%	\$187.16	\$196.54	\$206.34	\$216.58	\$227.28
market	35%	\$218.36	\$229.30	\$240.74	\$252.68	\$265.16
murket	40%	\$249.55	\$262.06	\$275.13	\$288.78	\$303.04

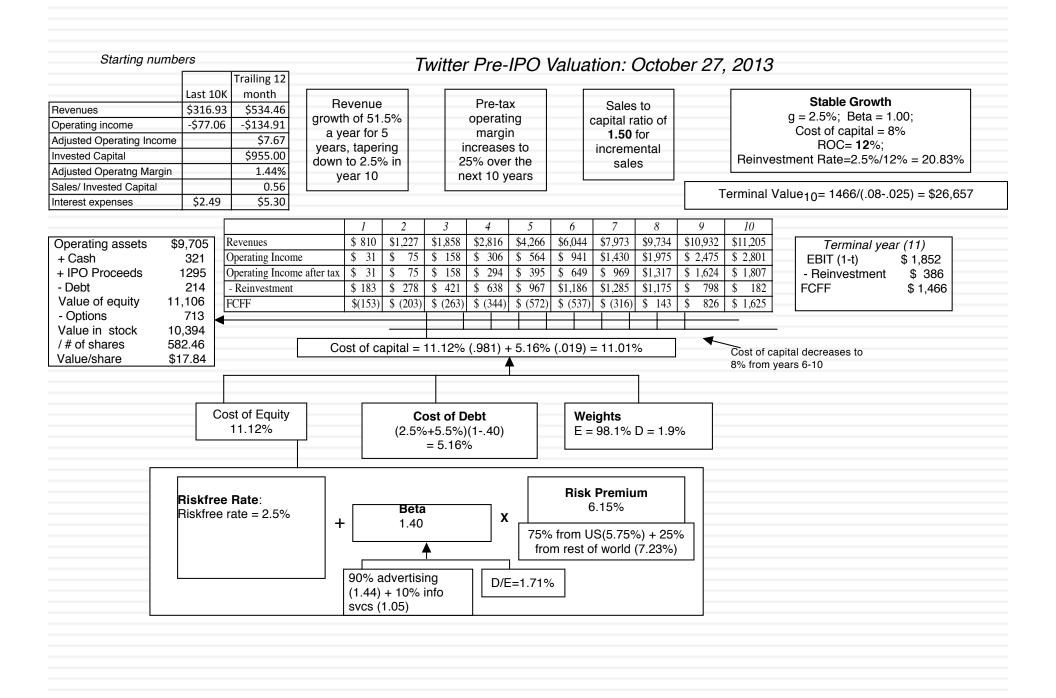
My estimate for 2023: Overall online advertising market will be close to \$200 billion and Twitter will have about 5.7% (\$11.5 billion)

My estimate for Twitter: Operating margin of 25% in year 10

### 3. Reinvest for growth

	Sales/ Invested Capital
Twitter (2013)	1.10
Advertising Companies	1.40
Social Media Companies	1.05

My estimate for Twitter: Sales/Capital will be 1.50 for next 10 years

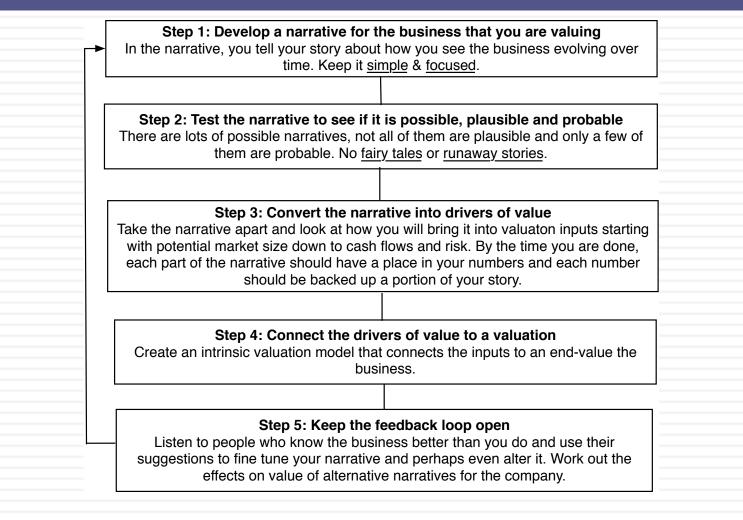


# 3. Valuation is never just about the

### numbers..

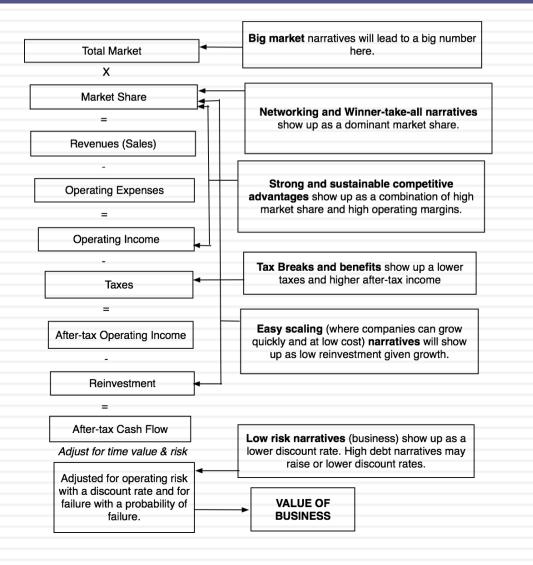
**Favored Tools Favored Tools** - Accounting statements - Anecdotes - Excel spreadsheets - Experience (own or others) - Statistical Measures - Behavioral evidence - Pricing Data A Good Valuation The Narrative People The Numbers People **Illusions/Delusions Illusions/Delusions** 1. Creativity cannot be quantified 1. Precision: Data is precise 2. If the story is good, the 2. Objectivity: Data has no bias investment will be. 3. Control: Data can control reality 3. Experience is the best teacher

### From story to numbers and beyond..



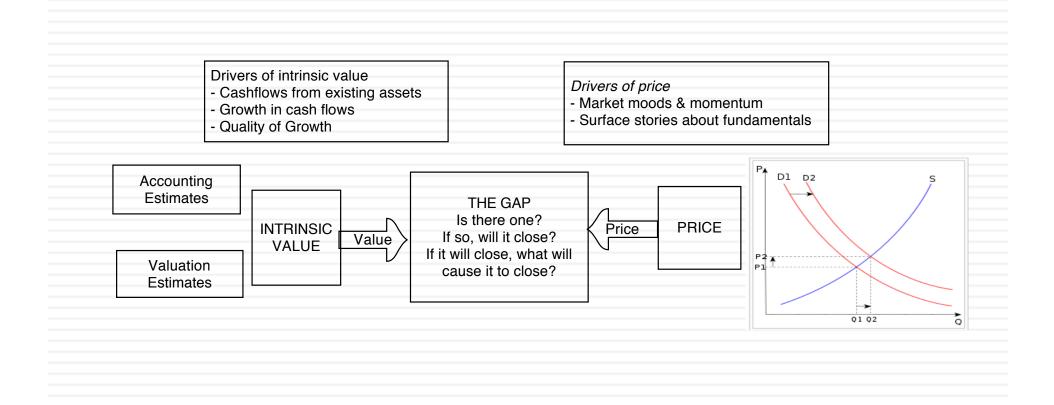
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### Every story has a number!



			The Story					
Uber is an urban car se	ervice company, di	awing in new use	ers into car ser	vice. It will enjoy local networ	king benefits while pr	eserving		
its c	urrent revenue sh	aring (80/20) and	capital intens	ity (don't own cars or hire driv	ers) model.			
	-	1	The Assumptic	ns				
	Base year	Years 1-5	Years 6-10	After year 10	Story link			
					Urban Car Service +	New		
Total Market	100 billion	Grow 6%		Grow 2.5%	users			
Gross Market Share	1.50%	1.50%>	10%	10%	Local Networking b	enefits		
Revenue Share	20.00%	Stays at	20%	20.00%	Preserve revenue s	nare		
Operating Margin	3.33%	3.33% -	40%	40.00%	Strong competitive	position		
Reinvestment	NA	Sales to capital	ratio of 5.00	Reinvestment rate = 10%	Low capital intensit	y model		
Cost of capital	NA	12.00%	12%->8%	8%	90th percentile of L	JS firms		
Risk of failure		10% chance of fa	ilure (with equ	ity worth zero)	Young company			
			The Cash Flov	/S				
	Total Market	Market Share	Revenues	EBIT (1-t)	Reinvestment	FCFF		
1	\$106,000	\$106,000 3.63%		\$37	\$94	\$(57)		
2	\$112,360	5.22%	\$1,173	\$85	\$81	\$4 \$76 \$156		
3	\$119,102	6.41%	\$1,528	\$147	\$71			
4	\$126,248	7.31%	\$1,846	\$219	\$64			
5	5 \$133,823 7.98%	5 \$133,823 7.98%		\$2,137	\$301	\$58	\$243	
6	\$141,852	8.49%	\$2 <i>,</i> 408	\$390	\$54	\$336		
7	\$150,363	8.87%	\$2,666	\$487	\$52	\$435		
8	\$159,385	9.15%	\$2,916	\$591	\$50	\$541		
9	\$168,948	9.36%	\$3,163	\$701	\$49	\$652		
10	\$179,085	10.00%	\$3,582	\$860	\$84	\$776		
Terminal year	\$183,562	10.00%	\$3,671	\$881	\$88	\$793		
			The Value					
Terminal value			\$14,418					
PV(Terminal value)			\$5,175					
PV (CF over next 10 yea	irs)		\$1,375					
Value of operating asse	ets =		\$6,550					
Probability of failure			10%					
Value in case of failure			\$-					
Adjusted Value for ope	rating assets		\$5,895	VCs priced Uber at \$17 billion	at the time.			

### 4. Value is not price



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# Test 1: Are you pricing or valuing?

5369 La Jolla Mesa Dr \$995.000 3 2.5 1.440 Sa. Ft 6 La Jolla, CA 92037 Price Beds Baths \$691 / Sa. Ft. Status: Active Built: 1955 Lot Size: 3,000 Sq. Ft. On Redfin: 12 days Favorite X-Out Share .. Tour Home Overview **Property History Property Details** Tour Insights Public Records Activity Schools Neighborhood & Offer Insights Similar Homes X 😚 Lisa Padilla **REDFIN** Real Estate Agent  $\star \star \star \star \star \star$ 47 client reviews \$8,726 commission refund ╆ Go Tour This Home Ask Lisa a Question or Start an Offer 1 of 4 Redfin Agents in this area Map Satellite + Play Video 🕞 1 of 25 aJo

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# Test 2: Are you pricing or valuing?

**BB BIOTECH** 

### Rating Buy

Europe Switzerland

Biotechnology Biotechnology Reuters Bloomberg BION.S BION SW

Company

Exchange Ticker

#### Date

#### 13 August 2013

#### **Forecast Change**

Price at 12 Aug 2013 (CHF)	124.00
Price Target (CHF)	164.50
52-week range (CHF)	128.40 - 84.90

# Strong sector and stock-picking continue

#### Impressive performance

Over the past two years, BB Biotech shares have roughly tripled, which could tempt investors to take profits. However, this performance has been well backed by a deserved revival of the biotech industry, encouraging fundamental news, M&A, and increased money flow into health care stocks. In addition, BBB returned to index outperformance by modifying its stock-picking approach. Hence, despite excellent performance, the shares still trade at a 23% discount to the net asset value of the portfolio. Hence, the shares are an attractive value vehicle to capture growth opportunities in an attractive sector.

#### Biotech industry remains attractive

With the re-rating of the pharma sector, investors have also showed increased interest in biotech stocks. Established biotech stocks have delivered encouraging financial results and approvals, while there has also been substantial industry consolidation, which is not surprising in times of "cheap" money and high liquidity. BB Biotech remains an attractive vehicle to capture the future potential of the biotech sector. In addition, investors benefit from a 23% discount to NAV and attractive cash distribution policy of 5% yield p.a. Hence, we reiterate our Buy on BB Biotech shares.

#### BB Biotech shares remain attractive

In the first 6M of 2013, BB Biotech increased its NAV by 36%, which marks good outperformance against the Nasdaq Biotech Index (NBI)'s 27%. This is a remarkable performance after 2012 when BBB's NAV increase of 45% also

#### Key changes

Target Price	106.50 to 164.50	1	54.5%
Source: Deutsche Ba	ank		

Price/price relative

Source: Deutsche Bani



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### The determinants of price

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Mood and Momentum Price is determined in large part by mood and momentum, which, in turn, are driven by behavioral factors (panic, fear, greed).

Liquidity & Trading Ease While the value of an asset may not change much from period to period, liquidity and ease of trading can, and as it does, so will the price.

The Market Price

Incremental information Since you make money on price changes, not price levels, the focus is on incremental information (news stories, rumors, gossip) and how it measures up, relative to expectations

**Group Think** 

To the extent that pricing is about gauging what other investors will do, the price can be determined by the "herd".

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### Pricing Twitter- October 2013

		J	ust Facebook a	nd Linkedin			
Company	EV	Market Cap	EV/Sales	EV/EBITDA	PE	Market Cap/User	Market Cap/Employee
Facebook, Inc. (NasdaqGS:FB)	\$100,017.00	\$107,909.00	16.35	36.20	193.73	\$97.22	\$20.36
LinkedIn Corporation (NYSE:LNKD)	\$28,448.50	\$29,321.90	22.87	179.26	729.40	\$130.32	\$6.9 <sup>,</sup>
Facebook + Linkedin	\$128,465.50	\$137,230.90	17.45	43.97	229.79	\$102.79	\$14.38
		S	ocial Media/Inte	ernet Medley			
Facebook, Inc. (NasdaqGS:FB)	\$100,017.00	\$107,909.00	16.35	36.20	193.73	\$97.22	\$20.36
Google Inc. (NasdaqGS:GOOG)	\$248,856.30	\$296,078.30	4.46	14.64	25.45	\$270.89	\$6.6
LinkedIn Corporation (NYSE:LNKD)	\$28,448.50	\$29,321.90	22.87	179.26	729.40	\$130.32	\$6.9 <i>′</i>
Netlfix	\$13,959.00	\$14,539.00	3.54	81.20	304.80	\$403.86	\$7.1
OpenTable, Inc. (NasdaqGS:OPEN)	\$1,641.70	\$1,733.70	9.45	30.35	59.99	\$15.34	\$3.02
Pandora Media, Inc. (NYSE:P)	\$4,163.40	\$4,232.30	7.89	NA	NA	\$21.16	\$5.72
RetailMeNot	\$1,723.60	\$1,715.00	10.20	34.20	64.96	\$147.84	\$4.60
Trulia, Inc. (NYSE:TRLA)	\$1,647.39	\$1,853.10	17.75	NA	NA	\$59.02	\$3.5
Yelp, Inc. (NYSE:YELP)	\$4,006.10	\$4,102.90	22.42	NA	NA	\$41.03	\$2.67
Zillow, Inc. (NasdaqGS:Z)	\$3,419.80	\$3,589.50	22.48	NA	NA	\$78.20	\$5.22
Yahoo! Inc. (NasdaqGS:YHOO)	\$27,262.80	\$29,854.60	5.65	21.24	7.19	\$106.24	\$2.5
Groupon	\$5,857.00	\$7,039.00	2.42	44.04	NA	\$168.80	\$0.62
Travelzoo Inc. (NasdaqGS:TZOO)	\$347.20	\$421.10	2.23	12.81	23.39	\$16.20	\$0.9
Aggregate	\$441,349.79	\$502,389.40	5.82	20.43	30.76	\$151.57	\$5.9
Median			8.67	32.27	59.99	101.73	4.9
Average			10.97	47.44	159.96	121.98	5.42

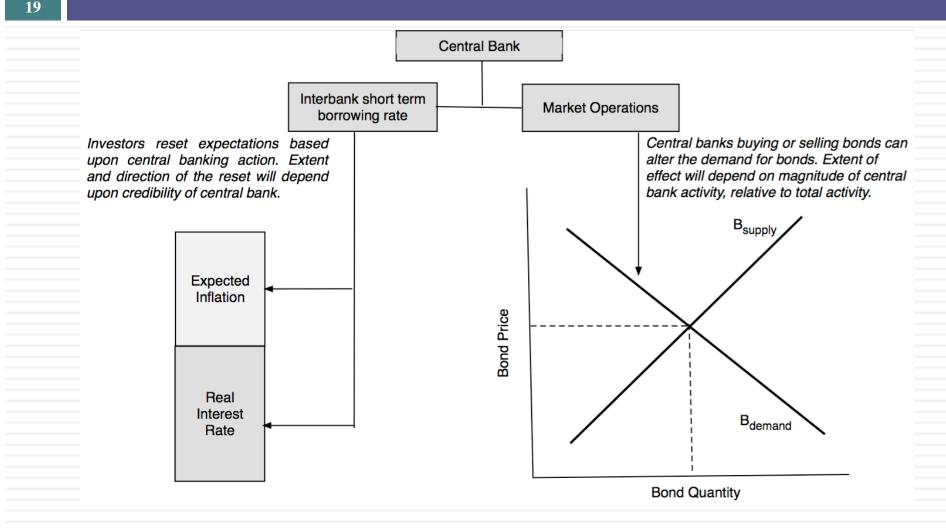
Twitter's value based on revenues = \$543 million \* ? Twitter's value based on # users = 237 million \* ?

## So, what's your game?

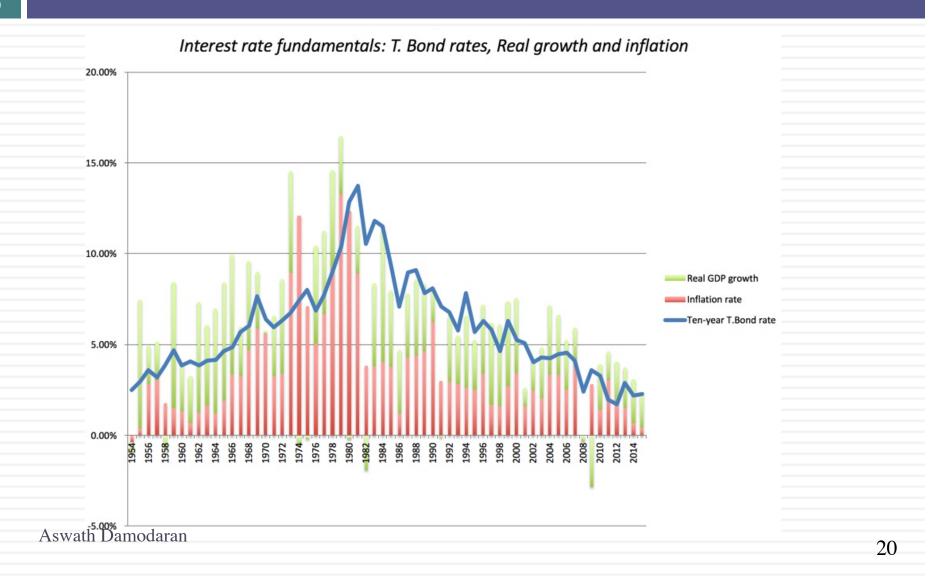
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- The transactors
  - Traders: Oscar Wilde's definition of a cynic: "knows the price of everything, the value of nothing".
  - Salespeople: Caveat emptor!
  - Deal intermediaries: Get the deal done (even if it is not a good deal)!
- The muddled middle
  - Academic value: The cognitive dissonance of the "efficient market"
  - Accounting value: Rule maker, rule maker, make up your mind!
  - Legal value: The bane of the expert witness!
- The investors
  - Owners of businesses: Except if you want to run it for the long term.
  - Investors in companies: With faith and patience, you can take advantage of Mr. Market.
  - Long term consultants: You have to live with the consequences of the advice that you mete out to your clients.

### 5. The Fed does not set interest rates

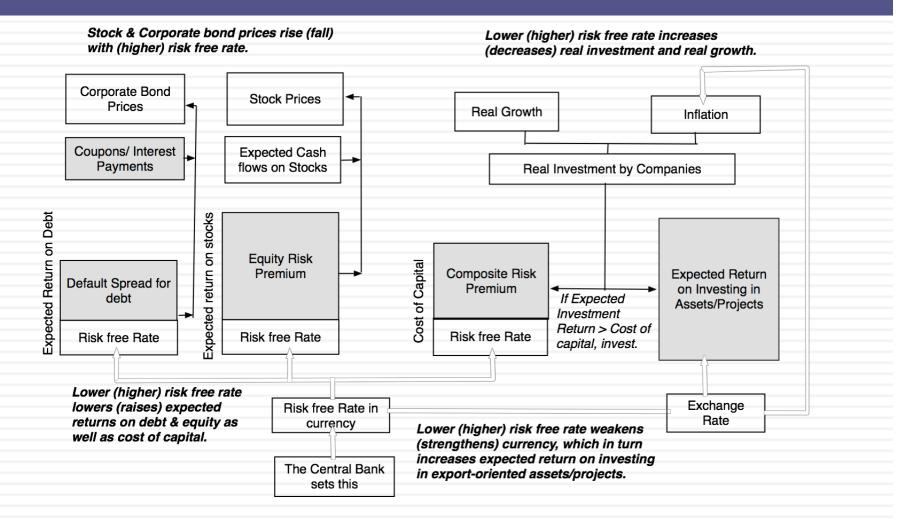


### Here is some proof..



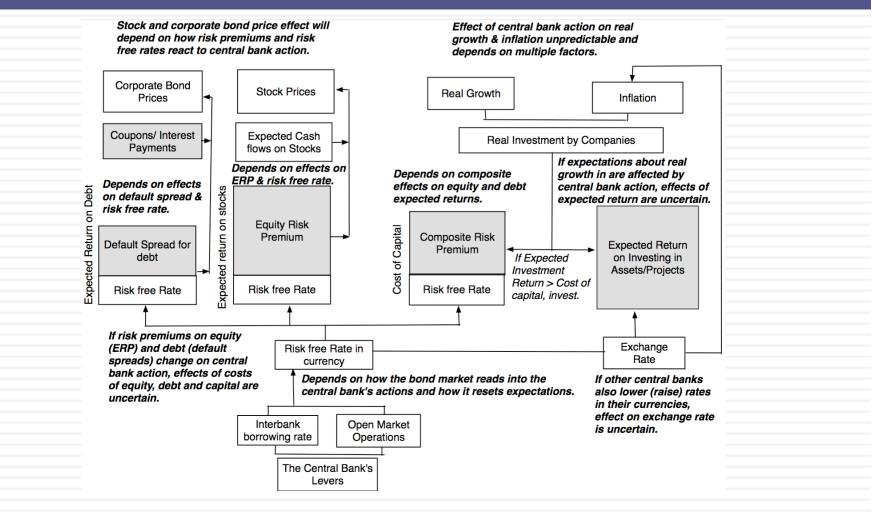
# 6. And when interest rates move, the world does not stay still..





## Here is what actually happens..

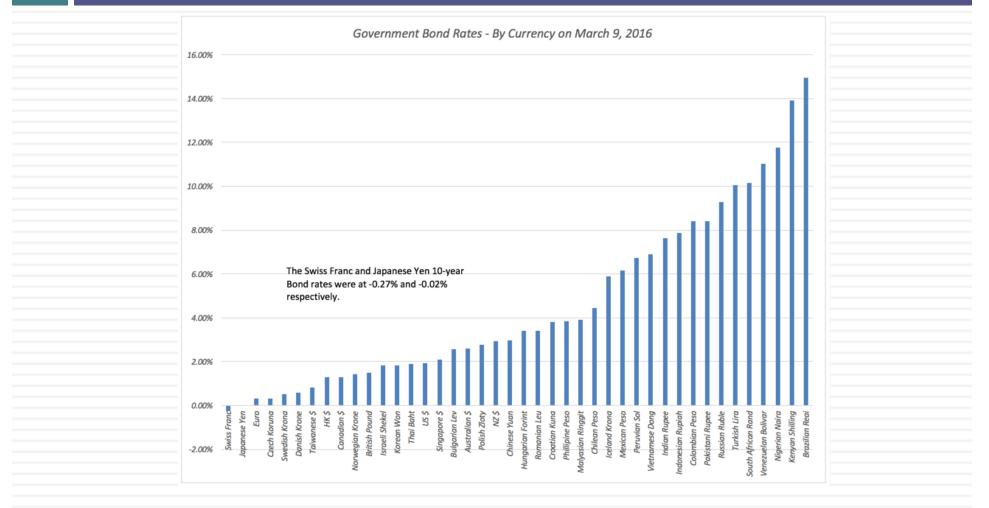
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### 7. Risk free rates vary across currencies..

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### But valuations should not

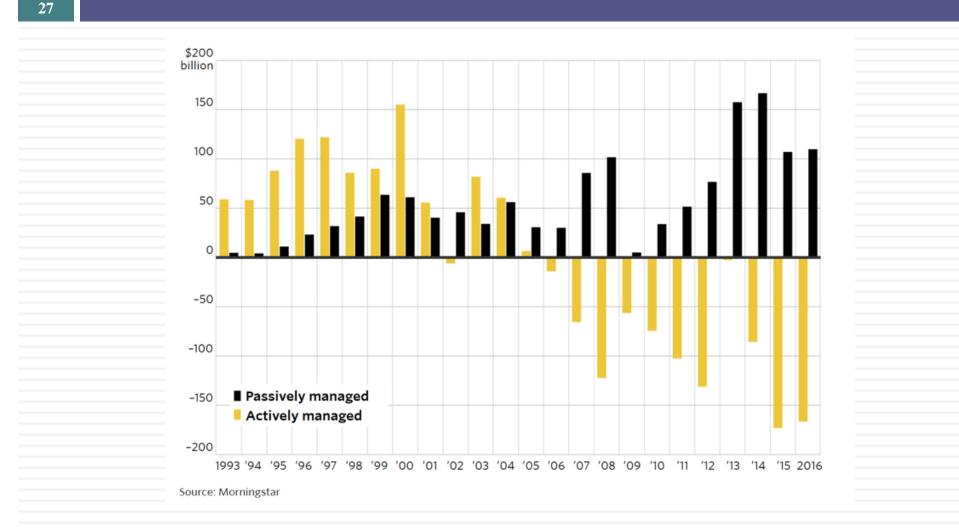
	In Indian Rupees	In US \$		
Risk free Rate	5.00%	2.00%		
Expected inflation rate	4.00%	1.00%		
Cost of capital				
- High Growth	12.50%	9.25%		
- Stable Growth	10.39%	7.21%		
Expected growth rate				
- High Growth	12.01%	8.78%		
- Stable Growth	5.00%	2.00%		
Return on Capital				
- High Growth	17.16%	13.78%		
- Stable Growth	10.39%	7.21%		
Value per share	Rs 614	\$12.79/share (roughly Rs		
		614 at current exchange		
		rate)		

## 8. Globalization is not just a buzzword..

- Across the world, both investors and companies have become globalized, with predictable and sometimes dangerous consequences.
- For both companies and investors, this has required them to become comfortable working in different currencies and across different countries.
- It has also become a recipe for disaster for those who
  - Mix up different currencies in the same analysis
  - Think that the risk of a company comes from where it is incorporated, not where it trades.

<u> </u>								Albania	13.32%	7.07%								
0								Armenia	13.32%	7.07%								
	Andorra (Principality of	9.71%	3.46% Jersey (	States of)	6.88%	0.63%	1	Azerbaijan	10.17%		Country	PRS	ERP	CRP	Country	PRS	ERP	CRP
Q	Austria	6.88%	0.63% Liechter			0.00%		Belarus		11.77%	Algeria	60.3	13.72%	7.47%	Malawi	54.8		5 10.99
70	Belgium	7.20%	0.95% Luxemb		6.25%	0.00%		Bosnia	16.46%	10.21%	Brunei	72.8	9.75%		Mali	63.5		-
	Cyprus	13.32%	7.07% Malta	ouig	8.14%	1.89%		Bulgaria	9.23%	2.98%	Gambia	61.5	13.72%		Myanmar	61.8		_
July	Denmark	6.25%	0.00% Netherl	ands	6.25%	0.00%		Croatia	10.97%	4.72%	Guinea	48.5 64.5	20.00%		Niger	53.8 57.3		_
n	Finland	6.88%	0.63% Norway		6.25%	0.00%	1	Czech Republic	7.36%	1.11%	Guinea-Bissau Guyana	64.5	12.48% 12.48%		Sierra Leone Somalia	41.0		_
	France	7.03%	0.78% Portuga	I	10.17%	3.92%	1	Estonia	7.36%	1.11%	Haiti	58.0	16.61%	10.36%		48.3		
• •	Germany	6.25%	0.00% Spain		9.23%	2.98%	1	Georgia	11.91%	5.66%	Iran	72.0	11.22%		Syria	45.8		_
	Greece	21.94%	15.69% Sweden		6.25%	0.00%		Hungary	10.17%	3.92%	Korea, D.P.R.	56.0	17.24%	10.99%	Fanzania	64.0		_
EKT	Guernsey (States of)	6.88%	0.63% Switzer	and	6.25%	0.00%		Kazakhstan	9.71%	3.46%	Liberia	52.8	17.24%		Годо	61.0		
r,	Iceland	9.23%	2.98% Turkey		9.71%	3.46%	0	Kyrgyzstan	14.89%	8.64%	Libya	50.0	20.00%		remen, Repub	_		-
L)	Ireland	8.14%	1.89% United	Cingdom	6.88%	0.63%	22	Latvia	8.14%	1.89%	Madagascar	64.5	12.48%	6.23% 2	Zimbabwe	56.0	17.24%	10.9
	Isle of Man	6.88%		n Europe	7.49%	1.24%	9	Lithuania	8.14%	1.89%					20			
	Italy	9.23%	2.98%				-	Macedonia	11.91%	5.66%				(	Banglad			5.66%
anada	6.25% 0.00%		Country	ERP	CRP			Moldova	16.46%	10.21%			• 47	1	Cambod			8.64%
IS	6.25% 0.00%		Angola	13.32%	7.079	6	7	Montenegro	11.91%	5.66%			1	Va	China			0.95%
lorth Amer			Botswana	7.58%	1.339	6		Poland	7.58%	1.33%	•		1	1	Fiji			7.079
			Burkina Faso	16.46%	10.21	1		Romania	9.71%	3.46%	4 1		~~		Hong Ko	~		0.639
aribbean	15.31% 9.06%	1 (	Cameroon	14.89%	8.649	_		Russia Serbia	10.17% 13.32%	3.92% 7.07%	10		1		India			3.46%
	14.1477 10.00			14.89%	8.649			Slovakia	7.58%	1.33%		K	)		Indonesi			3.46%
Argentin		_	Cape Verde					Slovenia	9.71%	3.46%	~	-1	M		Japan	_		1.119
Belize	20.39% 14.14		Congo (DR)	16.46%	10.21	_	-	Ukraine	21.94%			10	151		Korea			0.78%
Bolivia	11.91% 5.66	%	Congo (Rep)	14.89%	8.649	_		E. Europe	10.17%			1	4		Macao	_		0.95%
Brazil	10.97% 4.72	%	Côte d'Ivoire	11.91%	5.669	_		L. Luiope	10.1770	0.02/0			20		Malaysia			1.89%
Chile	7.20% 0.95	%	Egypt	16.46%	10.21	%		Abu Dhabi		7.03%	0.78%			2	Mauritiu	_		2.51%
Colombi	a 9.23% 2.98	%	Ethiopia	13.32%	7.079	6		Bahrain		10.979				5	Mongoli			8.64%
Costa Ri		_	Gabon	13.32%	7.079	6		Iraq		9.71%			5		Pakistan			0.219
Ecuador	16.46% 10.21	_	Ghana	16.46%	10.21	%		Israel		7.36%			(		Papua N			8.649
		_	Kenya	13.32%	7.079	6		Jordan		13.329				~	Philippin			2.989
El Salva		_	Morocco	10.17%	3.929	_		Kuwait		7.03%					Singapor			0.00%
Guatema			Mozambique	18.02%	11.77	_		Lebanon		14.89%	6 8.64%				Sri Lank	_		7.07%
Hondura		%	Namibia	9.71%	3.469			Oman		8.76%	2.51%				Taiwan	_		0.95%
Mexico	8.14% 1.89	%						Qatar		7.03%	0.78%				Thailand			2.51%
Nicaragu	ia 14.89% 8.64	%	Nigeria	13.32%	7.079			Ras Al Khair	nah	7.58%	1.33%				Vietnam			7.07%
Panama	9.23% 2.98	%	Rwanda	13.32%	7.079	_		Saudi Arabia	1	7.36%	1.11%				Asia	7.	82% 1	1.57%
Paraguay			Senegal	13.32%		_		Sharjah		8.14%	1.89%							
Peru	8.14% 1.89		South Africa	9.23%	2.989	6		United Arab	Emirate	_	0.78%							
			Tunisia	11.91%	5.669	6		Middle East		7.56%	1.31%			Austra	alia	6.25	% 0.0	00%
Surinam			Uganda	13.32%	7.079	6			Black	#: Tota	l ERP			Cook	Islands	13.32	% 7.0	)7%
Uruguay			Zambia	16.46%	+								22	New 7	Zealand	6.25	% 0.0	0%
Venezue			Africa	12.99%							try risk prei						_	
Latin Am	nerica 11.27% 5.02	%	Annea	12.3370	0.747	•		4	AVG: 0	GDP w	veighted av	erag	ze	Austra	alia & NZ	0.26	% 0.0	11%

# 9. The Greatest Disruption in history..



Aswath Damodaran

### And here is the reason..

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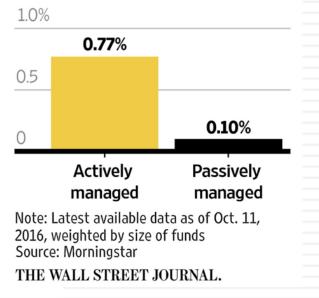


Note: Data through June 30, 2016

Sources: Wharton Research Data Services; CRSP Survivor-Bias-Free US Mutual Fund Database

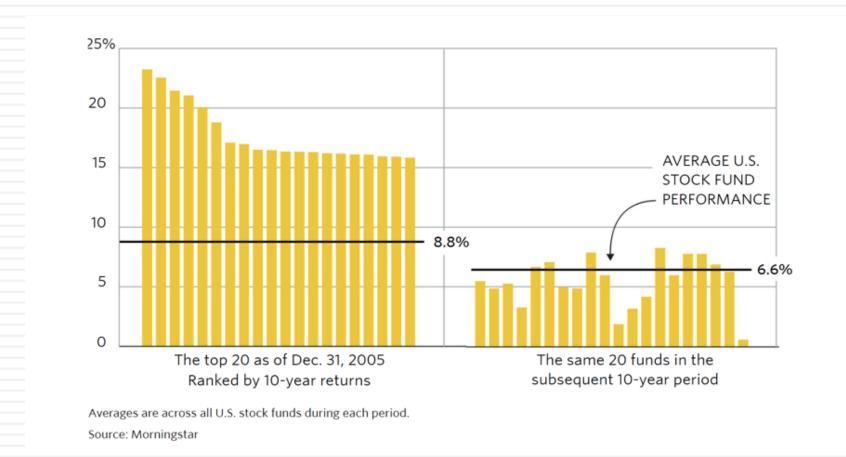
### **Fee Factor**

Average annual fees for U.S. stock mutual funds



### 10. Luck versus Skill

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# And if your response is "Warren Buffett", you've already lost the argument..

Berkshire Hathaway: The Fading Buffett Premium \$400,000 3.00 2.62 \$350,000 2.42 2.50 2.27 \$300.000 1.91 1.90 2.00 1.87 1.84 1.82 1.80 \$250,000 1.62 1.61 1.57 1.54 1.52 1.52 1.51 \$200,000 1.50 1.34 1.33 1.29 1.30 \$150,000 1.00 \$100,000 0.50 \$50,000 \$0 0.00 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 P/BV Ratio Market Cap BV of Equity