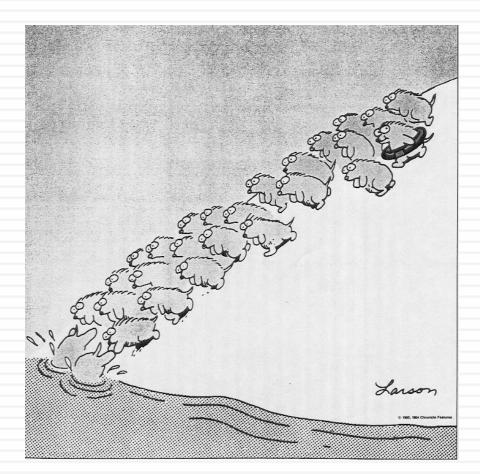
THE DARK SIDE OF VALUATION: A JEDI GUIDE TO VALUING DIFFICULT-**TO-VALUE COMPANIES**

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Some Initial Thoughts

□ "One hundred thousand lemmings cannot be wrong" Graffiti



Misconceptions about Valuation

- Myth 1: A valuation is an objective search for "true" value
 - Truth 1.1: All valuations are biased. The only questions are how much and in which direction.
 - Truth 1.2: The direction and magnitude of the bias in your valuation is directly proportional to who pays you and how much you are paid.
- Myth 2.: A good valuation provides a precise estimate of value
 - Truth 2.1: There are no precise valuations
 - Truth 2.2: The payoff to valuation is greatest when valuation is least precise.
- Myth 3: . The more quantitative a model, the better the valuation
 - Truth 3.1: One's understanding of a valuation model is inversely proportional to the number of inputs required for the model.
 - Truth 3.2: Simpler valuation models do much better than complex ones.

- In intrinsic valuation, you value an asset based upon its intrinsic characteristics.
- For cash flow generating assets, the intrinsic value will be a function of the magnitude of the expected cash flows on the asset over its lifetime and the uncertainty about receiving those cash flows.
- Discounted cash flow valuation is a tool for estimating intrinsic value, where the expected value of an asset is written as the present value of the expected cash flows on the asset, with either the cash flows or the discount rate adjusted to reflect the risk.

Risk Adjusted Value: Three Basic Propositions

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

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

- Proposition 1: If "it" does not affect the cash flows or alter risk (thus changing discount rates), "it" cannot affect value.
- Proposition 2: For an asset to have value, the expected cash flows have to be positive some time over the life of the asset.
- Proposition 3: 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.

6

Firm Valuation: Value the entire business

Assets	Liabilities
Existing Investments Generate cashflows today Includes long lived (fixed) and short-lived(working capital) assets Assets in Place	Debt Fixed Claim on cash flows Little or No role in management Fixed Maturity Tax Deductible
Expected Value that will be created by future investments Growth Assets	Equity Residual Claim on cash flows Significant Role in management Perpetual Lives

Equity valuation: Value just the equity claim in the business

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

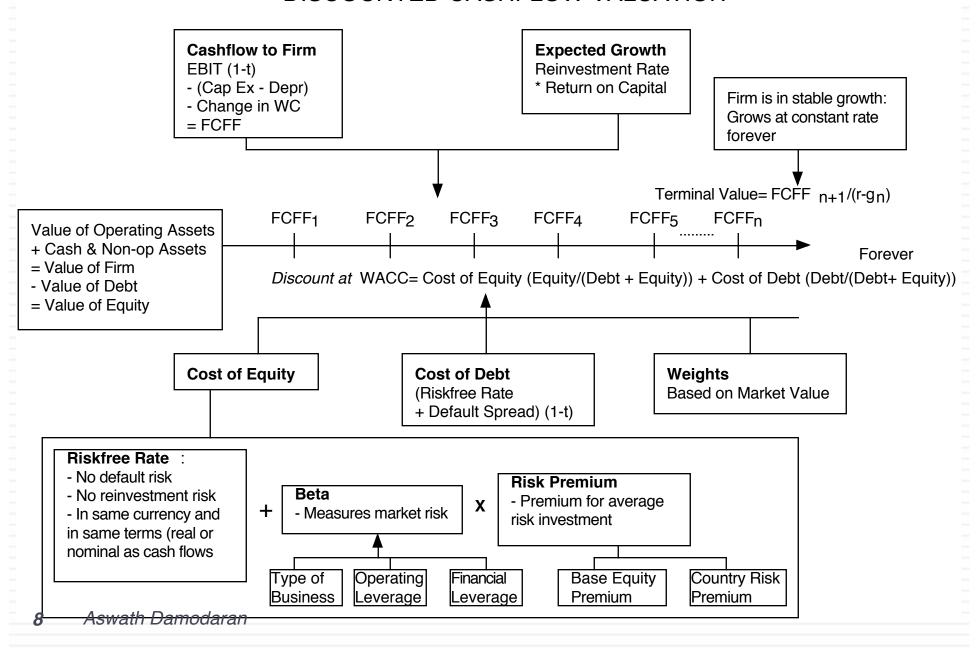
- Equity: Cashflows after debt payments
- Firm: Cashflows before debt payments,

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?

DISCOUNTED CASHFLOW VALUATION



- Valuing stable, money making companies with consistent and clear accounting statements, a long and stable history and lots of comparable firms is easy to do.
- The true test of your valuation skills is when you have to value "difficult" companies. In particular, the challenges are greatest when valuing:
 - Young companies, early in the life cycle, in young businesses
 - Companies that don't fit the accounting mold
 - Companies that face substantial truncation risk (default or nationalization risk)

10

Across the life cycle:

- Young, growth firms: Limited history, small revenues in conjunction with big operating losses and a propensity for failure make these companies tough to value.
- Mature companies in transition: When mature companies change or are forced to change, history may have to be abandoned and parameters have to be reestimated.
- Declining and Distressed firms: A long but irrelevant history, declining markets, high debt loads and the likelihood of distress make them troublesome.

Across sectors

- Financial service firms: Opacity of financial statements and difficulties in estimating basic inputs leave us trusting managers to tell us what's going on.
- Commodity and cyclical firms: Dependence of the underlying commodity prices or overall economic growth make these valuations susceptible to macro factors.
- Firms with intangible assets: Accounting principles are left to the wayside on these firms.

Across the globe

- Emerging "risky" economies: An economy in transition can create risks for even solid firms.
- Nationalization or expropriation risk: A truncation risk that shows up when you are doing well.

Across the ownership cycle

- Privately owned businesses: Exposure to firm specific risk and illiquidity bedevil valuations.
- VC and private equity: Different equity investors, with different perceptions of risk.
- □ Closely held public firms: Part private and part public, sharing the troubles of both.

I. The challenge with young companies...

Making judgments on revenues/ profits difficult becaue you cannot draw on history. If you have no product/ service, it is difficult to gauge market potential or profitability. The company;s entire value lies in future growth but you have little to base your estimate on.

Cash flows from existing assets non-existent or negative.

What is the value added by growth assets?

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

Different claims or cash flows can affect value of equity at each stage.

What is the value of equity in the firm?

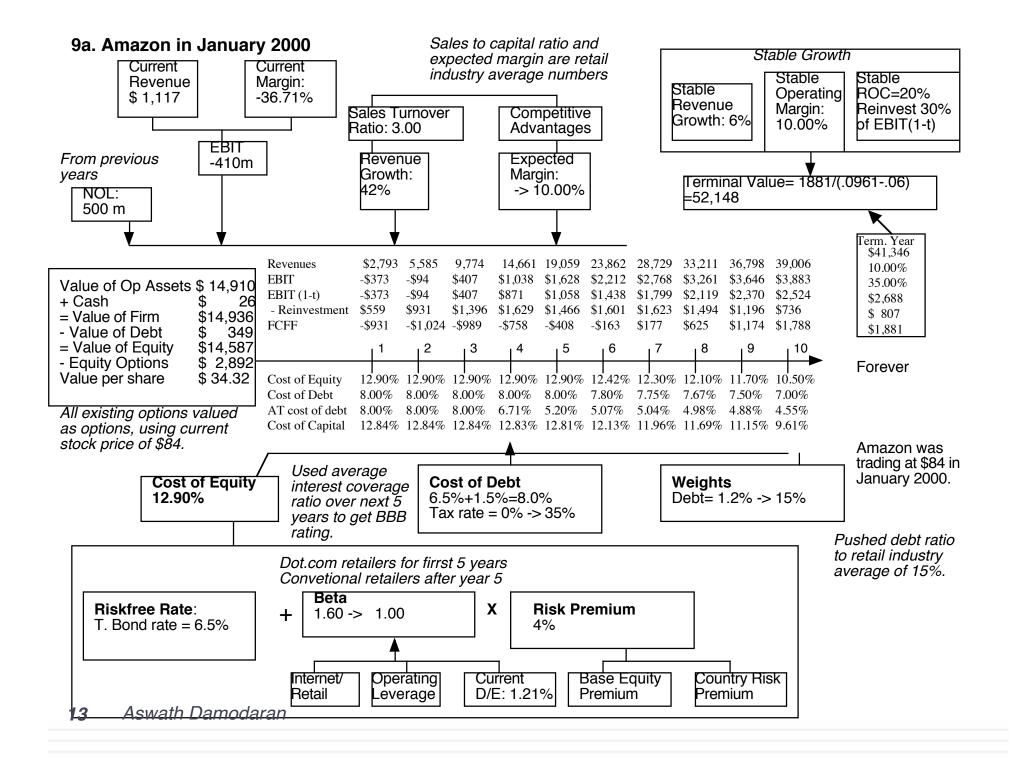
How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

Limited historical data on earnings, and no market prices for securities makes it difficult to assess risk. When will the firm become a mature fiirm, and what are the potential roadblocks?

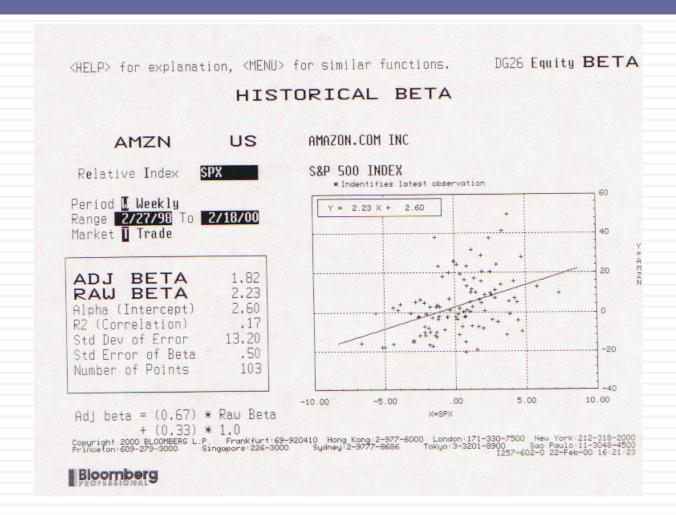
Will the firm will make it through the gauntlet of market demand and competition.
Even if it does, assessing when it will become mature is difficult because there is so little to go on.

12

- When valuing a business, we generally draw on three sources of information
 - The firm's current financial statement
 - How much did the firm sell?
 - How much did it earn?
 - The firm's financial history, usually summarized in its financial statements.
 - How fast have the firm's revenues and earnings grown over time?
 - What can we learn about cost structure and profitability from these trends?
 - Susceptibility to macro-economic factors (recessions and cyclical firms)
 - The industry and comparable firm data
 - What happens to firms as they mature? (Margins.. Revenue growth... Reinvestment needs... Risk)
- It is when valuing these companies that you find yourself tempted by the dark side, where
 - "Paradigm shifts" happen...
 - New metrics are invented ...
 - The story dominates and the numbers lag...



Lesson 1: Don't trust regression betas....



Lesson 2: Work backwards and keep it simple...

_			
	Voor	Revenues	Operating Margin
	rear	revenues	Operating Margin
			1 0 0

□ Tr12m \$1,117 -36.71% -	-\$410
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15

EBIT

Lesson 3: Don't forget to pay for growth...

Year	Revenue g	Revenue \$	Reinv S/Cap	ROC
1	150.00%	\$1,676	\$559 3.00	-76.62
2	100.00%	\$2,793	\$931 3.00	-8.96%
3	75.00%	\$4,189	\$1,396 3.00	20.59%
4	50.00%	\$4,887	\$1,629 3.00	25.82%
5	30.00%	\$4,398	\$1,466 3.00	21.16%
6	25.20%	\$4,803	\$1,601 3.00	22.23%
7	20.40%	\$4,868	\$1,623 3.00	22.30%
8	15.60%	\$4,482	\$1,494 3.00	21.87%
9	10.80%	\$3,587	\$1,196 3.00	21.19%
10	6.00%	\$2,208	\$736 3.00	20.39%

Lesson 4: There are always scenarios where the market price can be justified...

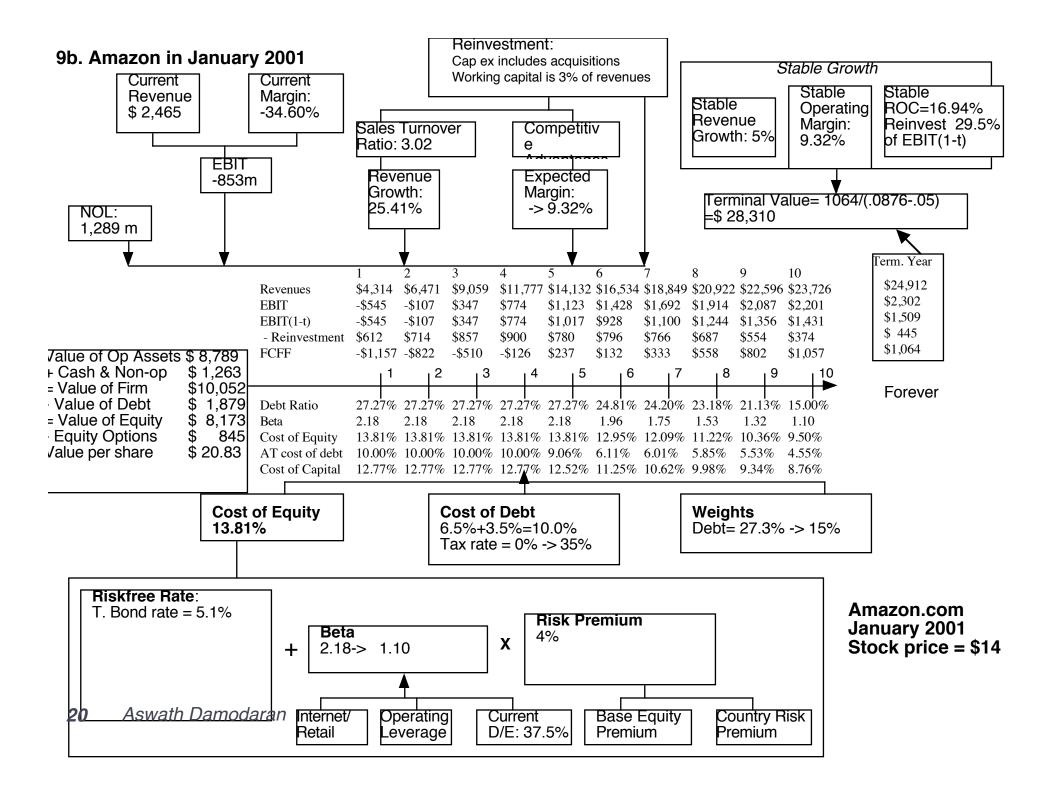
	6%		8%		10%		12%		14%	
30%	\$	(1.94)	\$	2.95	\$	7.84	\$	12.71	\$	17.57
35%	\$	1.41	\$	8.37	\$	15.33	\$	22.27	\$	29.21
40%	\$	6.10	\$	15.93	\$	25.74	\$	35.54	\$	45.34
45%	\$	12.59	\$	26.34	\$	40.05	\$	53.77	\$	67.48
50%	\$	21.47	\$	40.50	\$	59.52	\$	78.53	\$	97.54
55%	\$	33.47	\$	59.60	\$	85.72	\$	111.84	\$	137.95
60%	\$	49.53	\$	85.10	\$	120.66	\$	156.22	\$	191.77

Lesson 5: Don't forget to mop up...

- Watch out for "other" equity claims: If you buy equity in a young, growth company, watch out for other (often hidden) claims on the equity that don't take the form of common shares. In particular, watch for options granted to managers, employees, venture capitalists and others (you will be surprised...).
 - Value these options as options (not at exercise value)
 - Take into consideration expectations of future option grants when computing expected future earnings/cash flows.
- Not all shares are equal: If there are differences in cash flow claims (dividends or liquidation) or voting rights across shares, value these differences.
 - Voting rights matter even at well run companies

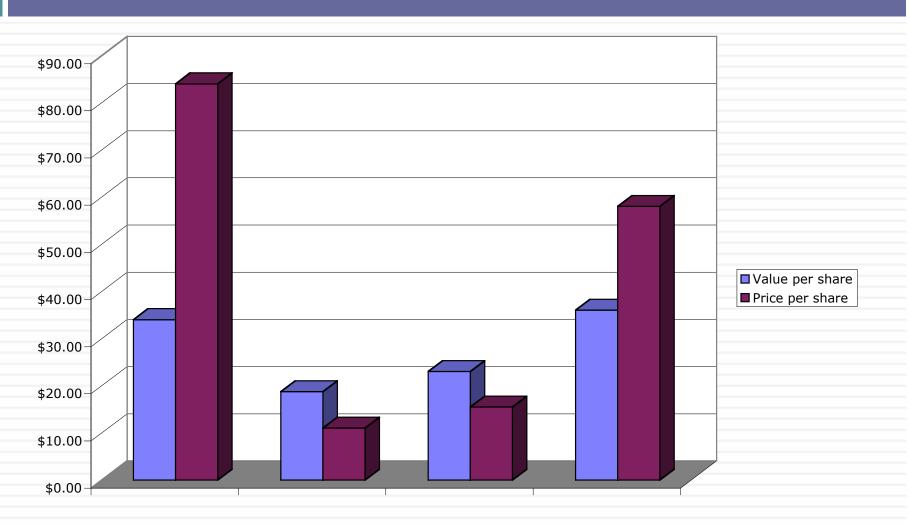
Lesson 6: You will be wrong 100% of the time... and it really is not (always) your fault...

- 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.
- A test: If your valuations are unbiased, you should find yourself increasing estimated values as often as you are decreasing values. In other words, there should be equal doses of good and bad news affecting valuations (at least over time).



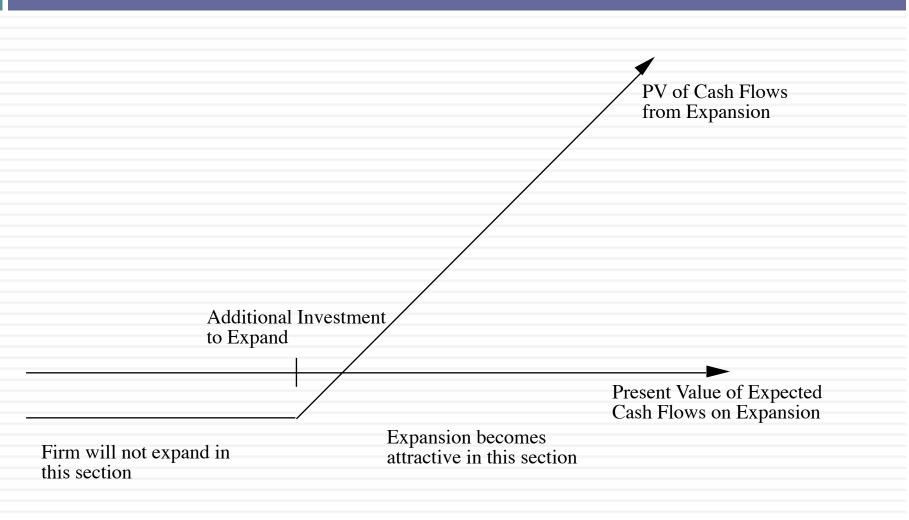
And the market is often "more wrong"....





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An "option premium" for some young companies: The option to expand into a new product/market



An Example of an Expansion Option

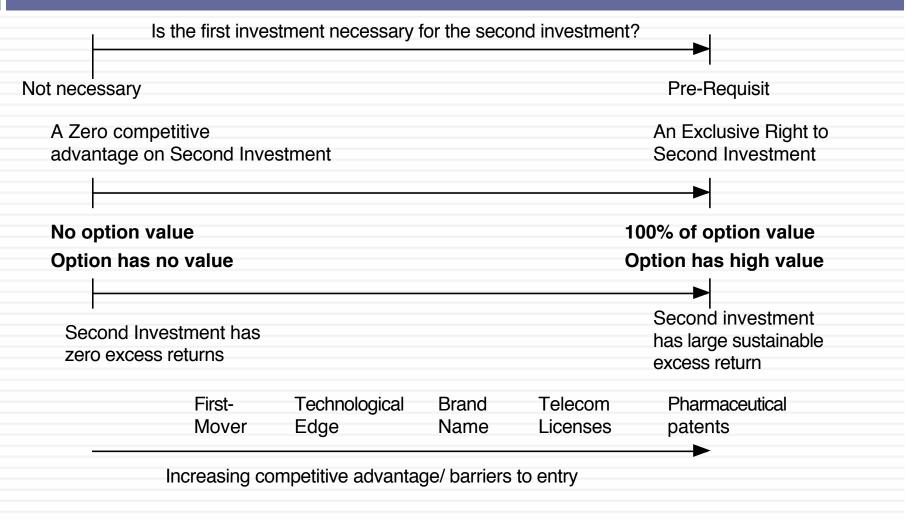
- You have complete a DCF valuation of a small anti-virus software company, Secure Mail, and estimated a value of \$115 million.
- Assume that there is the possibility that the company could use the customer base that it develops for the anti-virus software and the technology on which the software is based to create a database software program sometime in the next 5 years.
 - It will cost Secure Mail about \$500 million to develop a new database program, if they decided to do it today.
 - Based upon the information you have now on the potential for a database program, the company can expect to generate about \$ 40 million a year in after-tax cashflows for ten years. The cost of capital for private companies that provide database software is 12%.
 - The annualized standard deviation in firm value at publicly traded database companies is 50%.
 - The five-year treasury bond rate is 3%.

Valuing the Expansion Option

24			
	S	= Value of entering the database software	market
		= PV of \$40 million for 10 years @12%	= \$226 million
	K	= Exercise price	
		= Cost of entering the database software r	market = \$ 500 million
	t	= Period over which you have the right to e	enter the market
		= 5 years	
	S	= Standard deviation of stock prices of data	abase firms = 50%
	r	= Riskless rate = 3%	
		Call Value= \$ 56 Million	
	□ DCF	valuation of the firm	= \$ 115 million
	Valu	e of Option to Expand to Database market	= \$ 56 million
	Valu	e of the company with option to expand	= \$ 171 million

A note of caution: Opportunities are not options...

25



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II. Mature Companies in transition...

- Mature companies are generally the easiest group to value. They have long, established histories that can be mined for inputs. They have investment policies that are set and capital structures that are stable, thus making valuation more grounded in past data.
- However, this stability in the numbers can mask real problems at the company. The company may be set in a process, where it invests more or less than it should and does not have the right financing mix. In effect, the policies are consistent, stable and bad.
- If you expect these companies to change or as is more often the case to have change thrust upon them,

The perils of valuing mature companies...

Figure 7.1: Estimation Issues - Mature Companies

Lots of historical data on earnings and cashflows. Key questions remain if these numbers are volatile over time or if the existing assets are not being efficiently utilized

Growth is usually not very high, but firms may still be generating healthy returns on investments, relative to cost of funding. Questions include how long they can generate these excess returns and with what growth rate in operations. Restructuring can change both inputs dramatically and some firms maintain high growth through acquisitions.

What is the value added by growth assets?

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

> How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

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

Maintaining excess returns or

Equity claims can vary in voting rights and dividends.

Operating risk should be stable, but the firm can change its financial leverage This can affect both the cost of equtiy and capital.

high growth for any length of time is difficult to do for a mature firm.

What is the value of equity in the firm?

Hormel Foods: The Value of Control Changing

Hormel Foods sells packaged meat and other food products and has been in existence as a publicly traded company for almost 80 years. In 2008, the firm reported after-tax operating income of \$315 million, reflecting a compounded growth of 5% over the previous 5 years. The Status Quo

Run by existing management, with conservative reinvestment policies (reinvestment rate = 14.34% and debt ratio = 10.4%.

Anemic growth rate and short growth period, due to reinvestment policy

Low debt ratio affects cost of capital

Year	Operating income after taxes	Expected growth rate	ROC	Reinvestment Rate	Reinvestment	FCFF	Cost of capital	Present Value
Trailing 12 months	\$315							
1	\$324	2.75%	14.34%	19.14%	\$62	\$262	6.79%	\$245
2	\$333	2.75%	14.34%	19.14%	\$64	\$269	6.79%	\$236
3	\$342	2.75%	14.34%	19.14%	\$65	\$276	6.79%	\$227
Beyond	\$350	2.35%	7.23%	32.52%	\$114	\$4,840	7.23%	\$3,974
Value of operating assets								\$4,682
(Add) Cash								\$155
(Subtract) Debt								\$491
(Subtract) Management Options								\$53
Value of equity in common stock							\$4,293	
Value per share								\$31.91

New and better management

More aggressive reinvestment which increases the reinvestment rate (to 40%) and tlength of growth (to 5 years), and higher debt ratio (20%).

Operating Restructuring (1)

Expected growth rate = ROC* Reinvestment Rate Expected growth rae (status quo) = 14.34% * 19.14% = 2.75%

Expected growth rate (optimal) = 14.00% * 40% = 5.60%

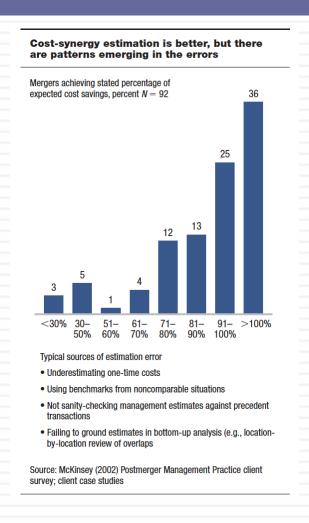
ROC drops, reinvestment rises and growth goes up.

Financial restructuring (2)
Cost of capital = Cost of equity (1-Debt ratio) + Cost of debt (Debt ratio) Status quo = 7.33% (1-.104) + 3.60% (1-.40) (.104) = 6.79%

Optimal = 7.75% (1-.20) + 3.60% (1-.40) (.20) = 6.63%

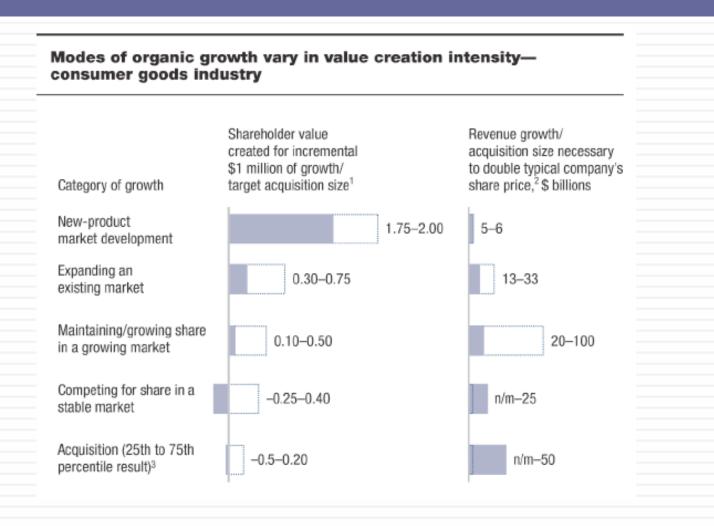
Cost of equity rises but cost of capital drops.

Year	Operating income after taxes	Expected growth rate	ROC	Reinvestment Rate	Reinvestment	FCFF	Cost of capital	Present Value
Trailing 12 months	\$315							
1	\$333	5.60%	14.00%	40.00%	\$133	\$200	6.63%	\$187
2	\$351	5.60%	14.00%	40.00%	\$141	\$211	6.63%	\$185
3	\$371	5.60%	14.00%	40.00%	\$148	\$223	6.63%	\$184
4	\$392	5.60%	14.00%	40.00%	\$260	\$235	6.63%	\$182
5	\$414	5.60%	14.00%	40.00%	\$223	\$248	6.63%	\$180
Beyond	\$423	2.35%	6.74%	34.87%	\$148	\$6,282	6.74%	\$4,557
Value of operating assets								\$5,475
(Add) Cash								\$155
(Subtract) Debt								\$491
(Subtract) Management Options								\$53
Value of equity in common stock								\$5,085
28 lue perAlgravath	n Damodaran							\$37.80



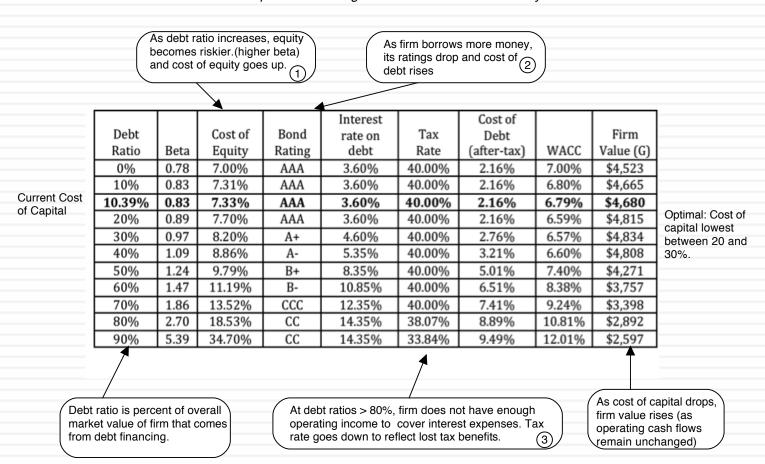
Lesson 2: Increasing growth is not always an option (or at least not a good option)

30



Lesson 3: Financial leverage is a double-edged sword..

Exhibit 7.1: Optimal Financing Mix: Hormel Foods in January 2009



Historial data often reflects flat or declining revenues and falling margins. Investments often earn less than the cost of capital.

Growth can be negative, as firm sheds assets and shrinks. As less profitable assets are shed, the firm's remaining assets may improve in quality.

What is the value added by growth assets?

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

Underfunded pension obligations and litigation claims can lower value of equity. Liquidation preferences can affect value of equity

What is the value of equity in the firm?

How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

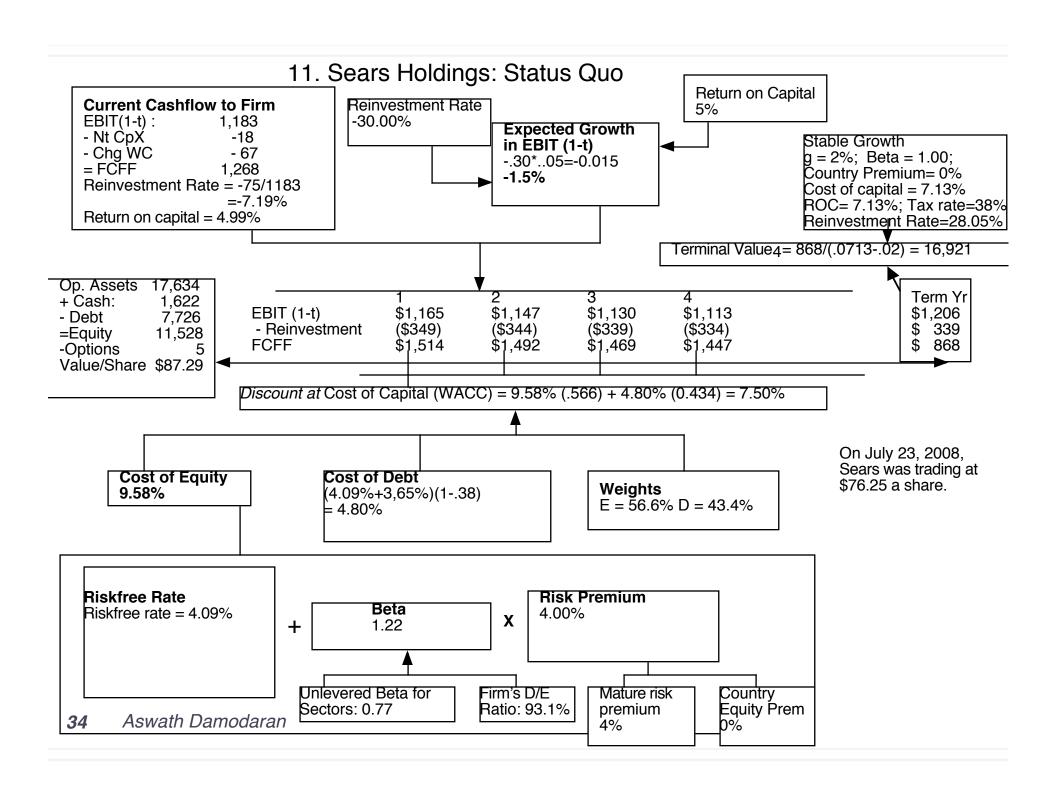
Depending upon the risk of the assets being divested and the use of the proceeds from the divestuture (to pay dividends or retire debt), the risk in both the firm and its equity can change.

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

There is a real chance, especially with high financial leverage, that the firm will not make it. If it is expected to survive as a going concern, it will be as a much smaller entity.

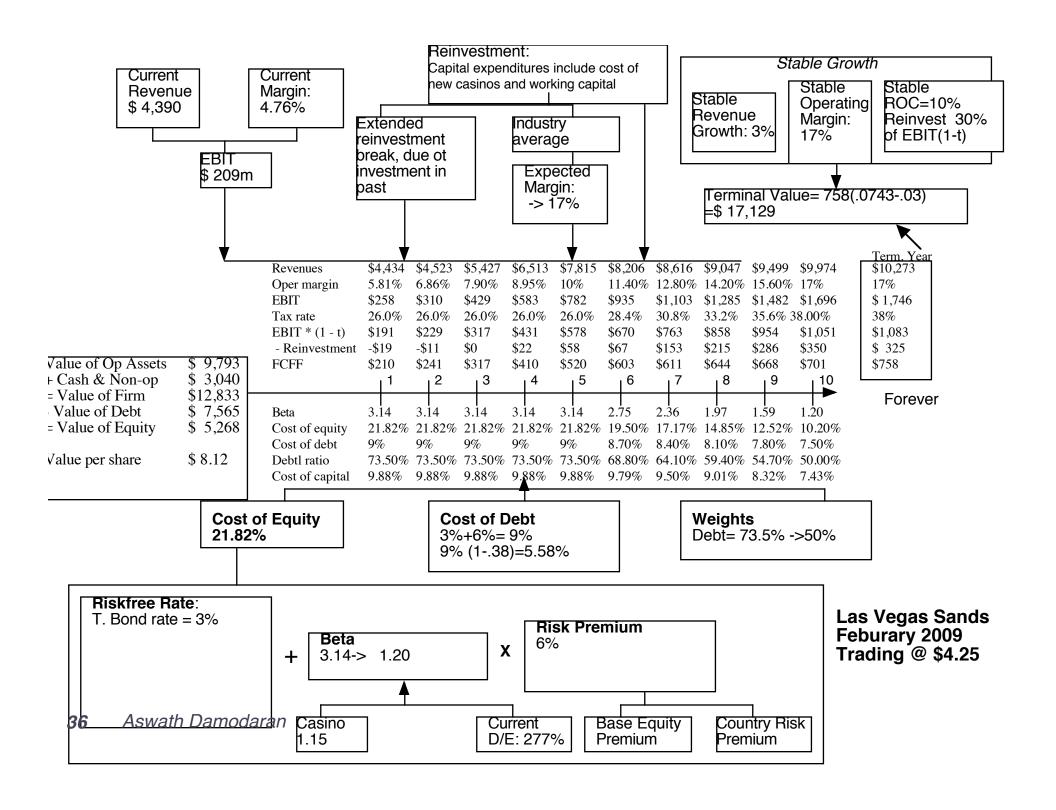
a. Dealing with Decline

- In decline, firms often see declining revenues and lower margins, translating in negative expected growth over time.
- If these firms are run by good managers, they will not fight decline. Instead, they will adapt to it and shut down or sell investments that do not generate the cost of capital. This can translate into negative net capital expenditures (depreciation exceeds cap ex), declining working capital and an overall negative reinvestment rate. The best case scenario is that the firm can shed its bad assets, make itself a much smaller and healthier firm and then settle into long-term stable growth.
- As an investor, your worst case scenario is that these firms are run by managers in denial who continue to expand the firm by making bad investments (that generate lower returns than the cost of capital). These firms may be able to grow revenues and operating income but will destroy value along the way.



b. Dealing with the "downside" of Distress

- A DCF valuation values a firm as a going concern. If there is a significant likelihood of the firm failing before it reaches stable growth and if the assets will then be sold for a value less than the present value of the expected cashflows (a distress sale value), DCF valuations will understate the value of the firm.
- Value of Equity= DCF value of equity (1 Probability of distress) + Distress sale value of equity (Probability of distress)
- ☐ There are three ways in which we can estimate the probability of distress:
 - Use the bond rating to estimate the cumulative probability of distress over 10 years
 - Estimate the probability of distress with a probit
 - Estimate the probability of distress by looking at market value of bonds..
- The distress sale value of equity is usually best estimated as a percent of book value (and this value will be lower if the economy is doing badly and there are other firms in the same business also in distress).



37

Adjusting the value of LVS for distress...

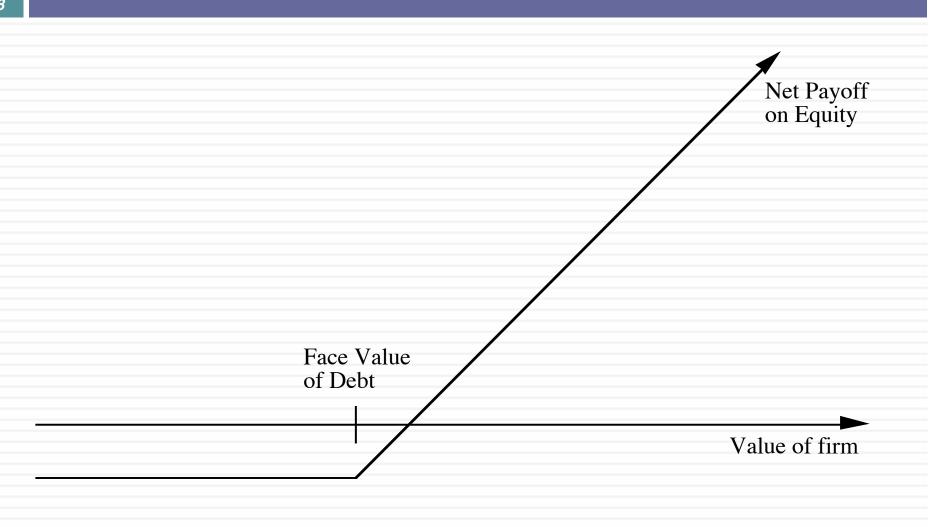
In February 2009, LVS was rated B+ by S&P. Historically, 28.25% of B+ rated bonds default within 10 years. LVS has a 6.375% bond, maturing in February 2015 (7 years), trading at \$529. If we discount the expected cash flows on the bond at the riskfree rate, we can back out the probability of distress from the bond price:

$$529 = \sum_{t=1}^{t=7} \frac{63.75(1 - \Pi_{\text{Distress}})^t}{(1.03)^t} + \frac{1000(1 - \Pi_{\text{Distress}})^7}{(1.03)^7}$$

- Solving for the probability of bankruptcy, we get:
- \square π_{Distress} = Annual probability of default = 13.54%
 - Cumulative probability of surviving 10 years = (1 .1354)10 = 23.34%
 - □ Cumulative probability of distress over 10 years = 1 .2334 = .7666 or 76.66%
- ☐ If LVS is becomes distressed:
 - Expected distress sale proceeds = \$2,769 million < Face value of debt
 - Expected equity value/share = \$0.00
- \Box Expected value per share = \$8.12 (1 .7666) + \$0.00 (.7666) = \$1.92

The "sunny" side of distress: Equity as a call option to liquidate the firm

38



Application to valuation: A simple example

- Assume that you have a firm whose assets are currently valued at \$100 million and that the standard deviation in this asset value is 40%.
- Further, assume that the face value of debt is \$80 million (It is zero coupon debt with 10 years left to maturity).
- If the ten-year treasury bond rate is 10%,
 - how much is the equity worth?
 - What should the interest rate on debt be?

Model Parameters & Valuation

The inputs

- Value of the underlying asset = S = Value of the firm = \$ 100 million
- Exercise price = K = Face Value of outstanding debt = \$80 million
- Life of the option = t = Life of zero-coupon debt = 10 years
- Variance in the value of the underlying asset = σ 2 = Variance in firm value = 0.16
- Riskless rate = r = Treasury bond rate corresponding to option life = 10%

The output

■ The Black-Scholes model provides the following value for the call:

$$N(d1) = 0.9451$$

$$N(d2) = 0.6310$$

- Value of the call = 100 (0.9451) 80 exp(-0.10)(10) (0.6310) = \$75.94 million
- Value of the outstanding debt = \$100 \$75.94 = \$24.06 million
- Interest rate on debt = (\$80 / \$24.06)1/10 1 = 12.77%

Firm value drops...

- Assume now that a catastrophe wipes out half the value of this firm (the value drops to \$ 50 million), while the face value of the debt remains at \$ 80 million.
- The inputs
 - Value of the underlying asset = S = Value of the firm = \$ 50 million
 - All the other inputs remain unchanged
- The output
 - Based upon these inputs, the Black-Scholes model provides the following value for the call:

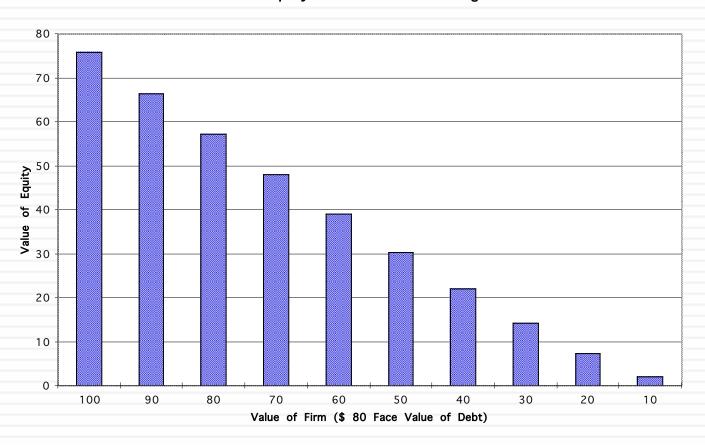
$$N(d1) = 0.8534$$

$$N(d2) = 0.4155$$

- Value of the call = 50 (0.8534) 80 exp(-0.10)(10) (0.4155) = \$30.44 million
- Value of the bond= \$50 \$30.44 = \$19.56 million

Equity value persists .. As firm value declines..

Value of Equity as Firm Value Changes



Real World Approaches to Valuing Equity in Troubled Firms: Getting Inputs

Input	Estimation Process		
Value of the Firm	Cumulate market values of equity and debt (or)		
	• Value the <u>assets in place</u> using FCFF and WACC (or)		
	Use cumulated market value of assets, if traded.		
Variance in Firm Value	• If stocks and bonds are traded,		
	σ^2 firm = $we^2 \sigma e^2 + wd^2 \sigma d^2 + 2 we wd \rho ed \sigma e \sigma d$		
	where σ_e^2 = variance in the stock price		
	$w_e = MV$ weight of Equity		
	σ_d^2 = the variance in the bond price $w_d = MV$ weight of debt		
	• If not traded, use variances of similarly rated bonds.		
	Use average firm value variance from the industry in which		
	company operates.		
Value of the Debt	• If the debt is short term, you can use only the face or book value		
	of the debt.		
	• If the debt is long term and coupon bearing, add the cumulated		
	nominal value of these coupons to the face value of the debt.		
Maturity of the Debt	Face value weighted duration of bonds outstanding (or)		
	• If not available, use weighted maturity		

Valuing Equity as an option - Eurotunnel in early 1998

- Eurotunnel has been a financial disaster since its opening
 - In 1997, Eurotunnel had earnings before interest and taxes of -£56 million and net income of -£685 million
 - At the end of 1997, its book value of equity was -£117 million
- □ It had £8,865 million in face value of debt outstanding
 - The weighted average duration of this debt was 10.93 years

Debt Type	Face Value	Duration
Short term	935	0.50
10 year	2435	6.7
20 year	3555	12.6
Longer	1940	18.2
Total	£8,865 mil	10.93 years

The Basic DCF Valuation

- The value of the firm estimated using projected cashflows to the firm, discounted at the weighted average cost of capital was £2,312 million.
- □ This was based upon the following assumptions
 - Revenues will grow 5% a year in perpetuity.
 - The COGS which is currently 85% of revenues will drop to 65% of revenues in yr 5 and stay at that level.
 - Capital spending and depreciation will grow 5% a year in perpetuity.
 - There are no working capital requirements.
 - The debt ratio, which is currently 95.35%, will drop to 70% after year 5. The cost of debt is 10% in high growth period and 8% after that.
 - The beta for the stock will be 1.10 for the next five years, and drop to 0.8 after the next 5 years.
 - The long term bond rate is 6%.

Other Inputs

- □ The stock has been traded on the London Exchange, and the annualized std deviation based upon In (prices) is 41%.
- □ There are Eurotunnel bonds, that have been traded; the annualized std deviation in In(price) for the bonds is 17%.
 - The correlation between stock price and bond price changes has been 0.5. The proportion of debt in the capital structure during the period (1992-1996) was 85%.
 - Annualized variance in firm value
 - = (0.15)2 (0.41)2 + (0.85)2 (0.17)2 + 2 (0.15) (0.85)(0.5)(0.41)(0.17) = 0.0335
- □ The 15-year bond rate is 6%. (I used a bond with a duration of roughly 11 years to match the life of my option)

Valuing Eurotunnel Equity and Debt

- Inputs to Model
 - Value of the underlying asset = S = Value of the firm = £2,312 million
 - Exercise price = K = Face Value of outstanding debt = £8,865 million
 - Life of the option = t = Weighted average duration of debt = 10.93 years
 - Variance in the value of the underlying asset = σ 2 = Variance in firm value = 0.0335
 - Riskless rate = r = Treasury bond rate corresponding to option life = 6%
- Based upon these inputs, the Black-Scholes model provides the following value for the call:
 - d1 = -0.8337 N(d1) = 0.2023
 - d2 = -1.4392 N(d2) = 0.0751
- □ Value of the call = $2312 (0.2023) 8,865 \exp(-0.06)(10.93) (0.0751) = £122$ million
- \Box Appropriate interest rate on debt = (8865/2190)(1/10.93)-1= 13.65%

Existing assets are usually financial assets or loans, often marked to market. Earnings do not provide much information on underlying risk.

Defining capital expenditures and working capital is a challenge. Growth can be strongly influenced by regulatory limits and constraints. Both the amount of new investments and the returns on these investments can change with regulatory changes.

What is the value added by growth assets?

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

Preferred stock is a significant source of capital.

raw material rather than a source of capital. It is not only tough to define but if defined broadly can result in high financial leverage, magnifying the impact of small operating risk

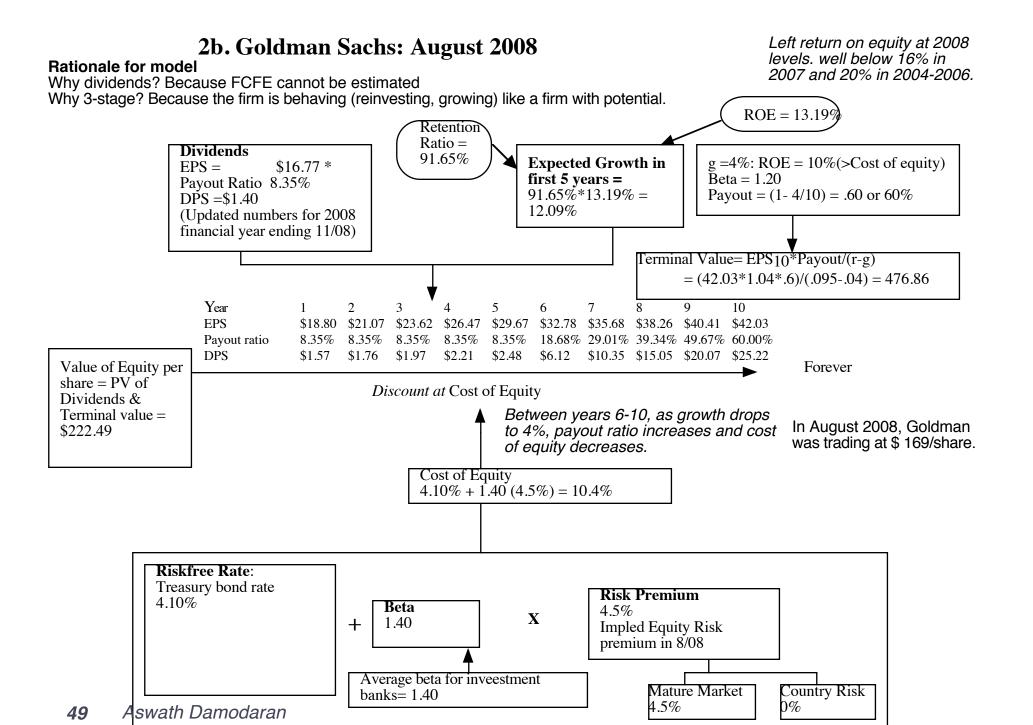
changes on equity risk.

For financial service firms, debt is

What is the value of equity in the firm?

In addition to all the normal constraints, financial service firms also have to worry about maintaining capital ratios that are acceptable of regulators. If they do not, they can be taken over and shut down.

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

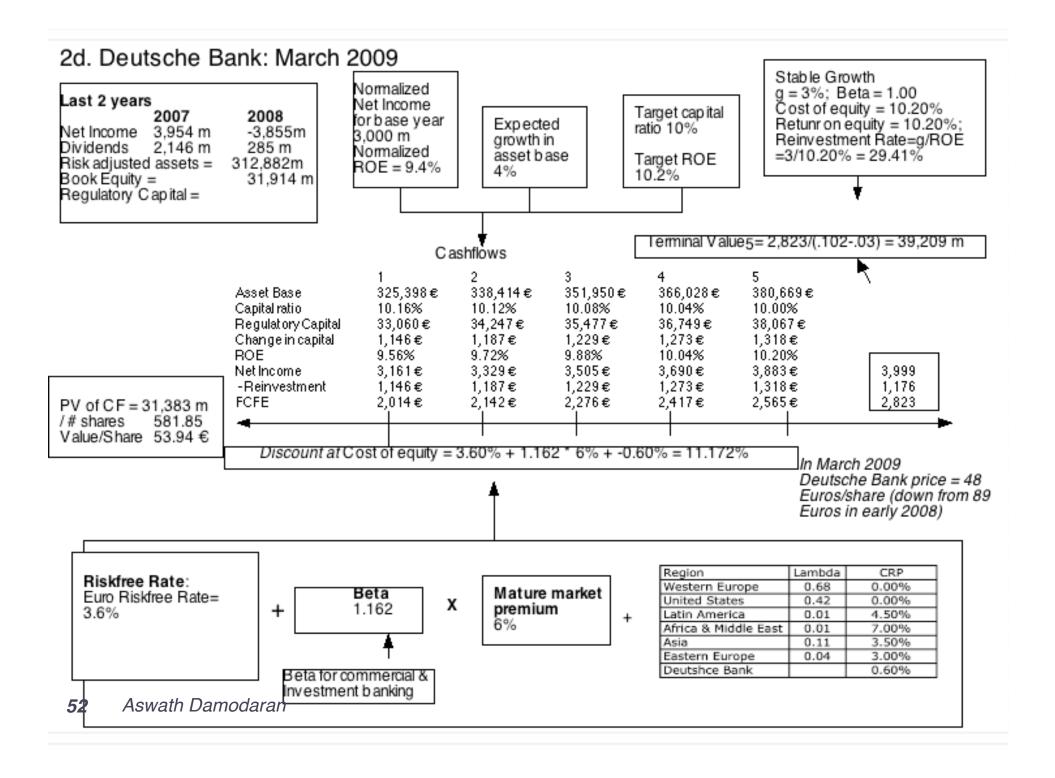


Lesson 1: Financial service companies are opaque...

50

- With financial service firms, we enter into a Faustian bargain. They tell us very little about the quality of their assets (loans, for a bank, for instance are not broken down by default risk status) but we accept that in return for assets being marked to market (by accountants who presumably have access to the information that we don't have).
- In addition, estimating cash flows for a financial service firm is difficult to do. So, we trust financial service firms to pay out their cash flows as dividends. Hence, the use of the dividend discount model.

- The book value of assets and equity is mostly irrelevant when valuing non-financial service companies. After all, the book value of equity is a historical figure and can be nonsensical. (The book value of equity can be negative and is so for more than a 1000 publicly traded US companies)
- With financial service firms, book value of equity is relevant for two reasons:
 - Since financial service firms mark to market, the book value is more likely to reflect what the firms own right now (rather than a historical value)
 - The regulatory capital ratios are based on book equity. Thus, a bank with negative or even low book equity will be shut down by the regulators.
- From a valuation perspective, it therefore makes sense to pay heed to book value. In fact, you can argue that reinvestment for a bank is the amount that it needs to add to book equity to sustain its growth ambitions and safety requirements:
 - FCFE = Net Income Reinvestment in regulatory capital (book equity)



V. Valuing Companies with "intangible" assets

If capital expenditures are miscategorized as operating expenses, it becomes very difficult to assess how much a firm is reinvesting for future growth and how well its investments are doing.

What is the value added by growth assets?

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

The capital expenditures associated with acquiring intangible assets (technology, himan capital) are mis-categorized as operating expenses, leading to inccorect accounting earnings and measures of capital invested.

How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

It ican be more difficult to borrow against intangible assets than it is against tangible assets. The risk in operations can change depending upon how stable the intangbiel asset is. When will the firm become a mature fiirm, and what are the potential roadblocks?

Intangbile assets such as brand name and customer loyalty can last for very long periods or dissipate overnight.

Lesson 1: Accounting rules are cluttered with inconsistencies...

54

- If we start with accounting first principles, capital expenditures are expenditures designed to create benefits over many periods. They should not be used to reduce operating income in the period that they are made, but should be depreciated/amortized over their life. They should show up as assets on the balance sheet.
- Accounting is consistent in its treatment of cap ex with manufacturing firms, but is inconsistent with firms that do not fit the mold.
 - With pharmaceutical and technology firms, R&D is the ultimate cap ex but is treated as an operating expense.
 - With consulting firms and other firms dependent on human capital, recruiting and training expenses are your long term investments that are treated as operating expenses.
 - With brand name consumer product companies, a portion of the advertising expense is to build up brand name and is the real capital expenditure. It is treated as an operating expense.

Exhibit 11.1: Converting R&D expenses to R&D assets - Amgen

Step 1: Ddetermining an amortizable life for R & D expenses. 1

How long will it take, on an expected basis, for research to pay off at Amgen? Given the length of the approval process for new drugs by the Food and Drugs Administration, we will assume that this amortizable life is 10 years.

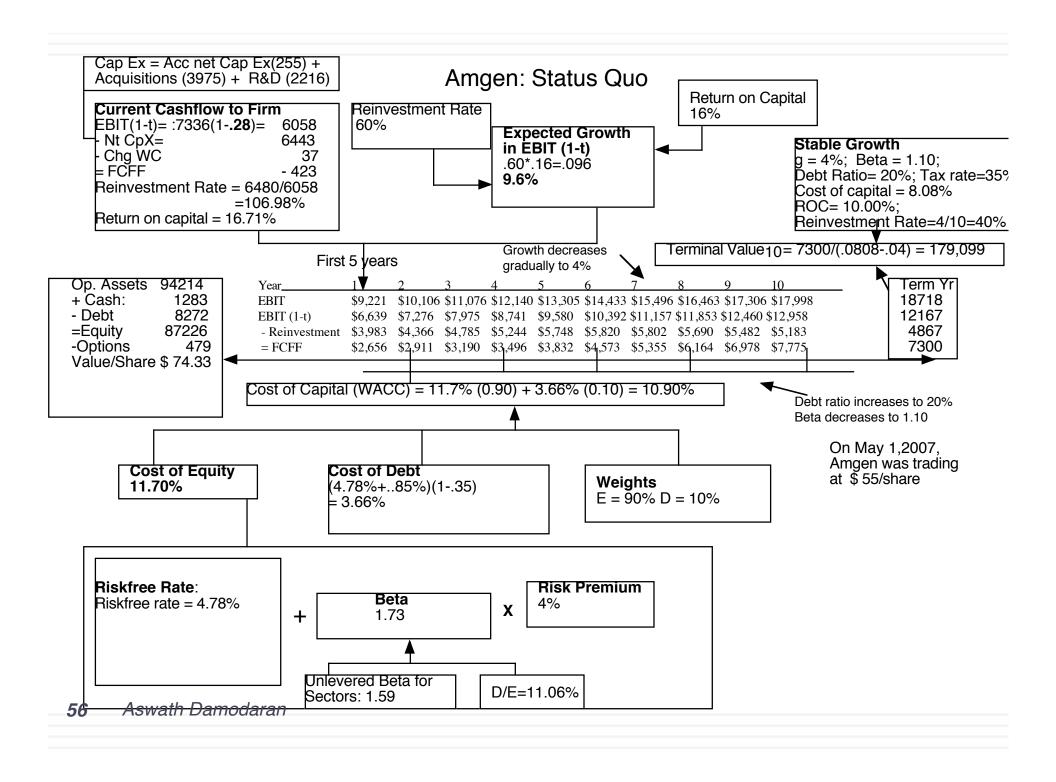
Step 2: Capitalize historical R&D exoense

			2	3
Year	R&D Expense	Unam	ortized portion	Amortization this year
Current	3030.00	1.00	3030.00	
-1	3266.00	0.90	2939.40	\$326.60
-2	3366.00	0.80	2692.80	\$336.60
-3	2314.00	0.70	1619.80	\$231.40
-4	2028.00	0.60	1216.80	\$202.80
-5	1655.00	0.50	827.50	\$165.50
-6	1117.00	0.40	446.80	\$111.70
-7	864.00	0.30	259.20	\$86.40
-8	845.00	0.20	169.00	\$84.50
-9	823.00	0.10	82.30	\$82.30
-10	663.00	0.00	0.00	\$66.30
			\$13283.60	\$1,694.10

Current year's R&D expense = Cap ex = \$3,030 million
R&D amortization = Depreciation = \$ 1,694 million
Unamortized R&D = Capital invested (R&D) = \$13,284 million

Step 3: Restate earnings, book value and return numbers

	Unadjusted	Adjusted for R&D	Comments
Net Income	\$4,196	4,196 + 3030 - 1694 = \$ 5,532	Add current year's R&D and subtract R&D amortization
Book value of equity	\$17,869	17,869 + 13,284 = \$ 31,153	Add unamortized R&D from prior years
Return on Equity	$\frac{4196}{17869} = 23.48\%$	$\frac{5532}{31153} = 17.75\%$	Return on equity drops when book equity is augmented by R&D, even though net income rises.
Pre-tax Operating Income	\$5,594	5,594 + 3030 - 1694 = \$ 6.930	Add current year's R&D and subtract R&D amortization
Book value of invested capital	\$21,985	\$21,985+\$13,284 = \$35,269	Add unamortized R&D from prior years
Pre-tax Return on Capital Wath Dai	⁵⁵⁹⁴ / ₂₁₉₈₅ = 25.44% modaran	$\frac{6930}{35269} = 19.65\%$	Return on capital drops when capital is augmented by R&D, even though operating income rises.



Lesson 2: And fixing those inconsistencies can alter your view of a company and affect its value

	No R&D adjustment	R&D adjustment
EBIT	\$5,071	\$7,336
Invested Capital	\$25,277	\$33,173
ROIC	14.58%	18.26%
Reinvestment Rate	115.68%	106.98%
Value of firm	\$58,617	\$95,497
Value of equity	\$50,346	\$87,226
Value/share	\$42.73	\$74.33

Company growth often comes from movements in the economic cycle, for cyclical firms, or commodity prices, for commodity companies.

What is the value added by growth assets?

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

Historial revenue and earnings data are volatile, as the economic cycle and commodity prices change.

How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

Primary risk is from the economy for cyclical firms and from commodity price movements for commodity companies. These risks can stay dormant for long periods of apparent prosperity.

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

For commodity companies, the fact that there are only finite amounts of the commodity may put a limit on growth forever.
For cyclical firms, there is the peril that the next recession may put an end to the firm.

Valuing a Cyclical Company - Toyota in Early 2009

	Year	Revenues	Operating Inco	BITDA	Operating Març
	FY1 1992	¥10,163,380	¥218,511	¥218,511	2.15%
	FY1 1993	¥10,210,750	¥181,897	¥181,897	1.78%
	FY1 1994	¥9,362,732	¥136,226	¥136,226	1.45%
	FY1 1995	¥8,120,975	¥255,719	¥255,719	3.15%
	FY1 1996	¥10,718,740	¥348,069	¥348,069	3.25%
	FY1 1997	¥12,243,830	¥665,110	¥665,110	5.43%
	FY1 1998	¥11,678,400	¥779,800	¥1,382,950	6.68%
	FY1 1999	¥12,749,010	¥774,947	¥1,415,997	6.08%
	FY1 2000	¥12,879,560	¥775,982	¥1,430,982	6.02%
	FY1 2001	¥13,424,420	¥870,131	¥1,542,631	6.48%
	FY1 2002	¥15,106,300	¥1,123,475	¥1,822,975	7.44%
	FY1 2003	¥16,054,290	¥1,363,680	¥2,101,780	8.49%
	FY1 2004	¥17,294,760	¥1,666,894	¥2,454,994	9.64%
	FY1 2005	¥18,551,530	¥1,672,187	¥2,447,987	9.01%
	FY1 2006	¥21,036,910	¥1,878,342	¥2,769,742	8.93%
	FY1 2007	¥23,948,090	¥2,238,683	¥3,185,683	9.35%
	FY1 2008	¥26,289,240	¥2,270,375	¥3,312,775	8.64%
	FY 2009 (Estin	¥22,661,325	¥267,904	¥1,310,304	1.18%
rr	nings (1)		¥1,306,867		7.33%

Normalized Earnings (1) \$\frac{1}{1,506,667}\$ 7.55%

As a cyclical company, Toyota's earnings have been volatile and 2009 earnings reflect the troubled global economy. We will assume that when economic growth returns, the operating margin for Toyota will revert back to the historical average.

Normalized Operating Income = Revenues in 2009 * Average Operating Margin (98--09) = 22661 * .0733 = 1660.7 billion ven

Value of operating assets = $\frac{1660.7 (1.015) (1 - .407) (1 - .2946)}{(.0509 - .015)} = 19,640 \text{ billion}$

In early 2009, Toyota Motors had the highest market share in the sector. However, the global economic recession in 2008-09 had pulled earnings down.

Normalized Return on capital and Reinvestment

(2)

Once earnings bounce back to normal, we assume that Toyota will be able to earn a return on capital equal to its cost of capital (5.09%). This is a sector, where earning excess returns has proved to be difficult even for the best of firms.

To sustain a 1.5% growth rate, the reinvestment rate has to be: Reinvestment rate = 1.5%/5.09%

= 29.46%

	/		
	Operating Assets	19,640	
	+ Cash	2,288	
	+ Non-operating assets	6,845	
	- Debt	11,862	
	- Minority Interests	583	
1	Value of Equity		
	/ No of shares	/3,448	
	Value per share	¥4735	

Normalized Cost of capital (3)

The cost of capital is computed using the average beta of automobile companies (1.10), and Toyota's cost of debt (3.25%) and debt ratio (52.9% debt ratio. We use the Japanese marginal tax rate of 40.7% for computing both the after-tax cost of debt and the after-tax operating income

Cost of capital = 8.65% (.471) + 3.25% (1-.407) (.529) = 5.09%

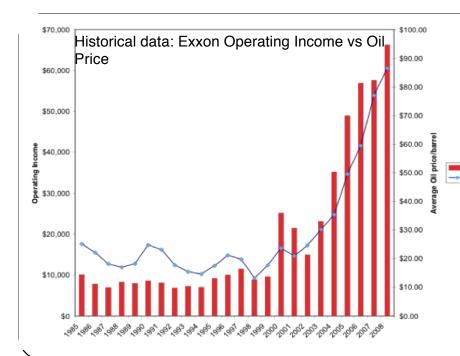
Stable Growth (4)

Once earnings are normalized, we assume that Toyota, as the largest market-share company, will be able to maintain only stable growth (1.5% in Yen terms)

Valuing a commodity company - Exxon in Early 2009

Operating Income

Average Oil Price



Regressing Exxon's operating income against the oil price per barrel from 1985-2008:

Operating Income = -6,395 + 911.32 (Average Oil Price) $R^2 = 90.2\%$ (2.95) (14.59)

Exxon Mobil's operating income increases about \$9.11 billion for every \$10 increase in the price per barrel of oil and 90% of the variation in Exxon's earnings over time comes from movements in oil prices.

Estiimate normalized income based on current oil price

At the time of the valuation, the oil price was \$ 45 a barrel. Exxon's operating income based on thisi price is

Normalized Operating Income = -6,395 + 911.32 (\$45) = \$34,614

Estimate return on capital and reinvestment rate based on normalized income (2)

This operating income translates into a return on capital of approximately 21% and a reinvestment rate of 9.52%, based upon a 2% growth rate.

Reinvestment Rate = g/ROC = 2/21% = 9.52%

Value of operating assets = $\frac{34,614(1 - .38)(1 - .0952)}{(.0818 - .02)}$ = \$320,472 million

Exxon's cost of capital (4)

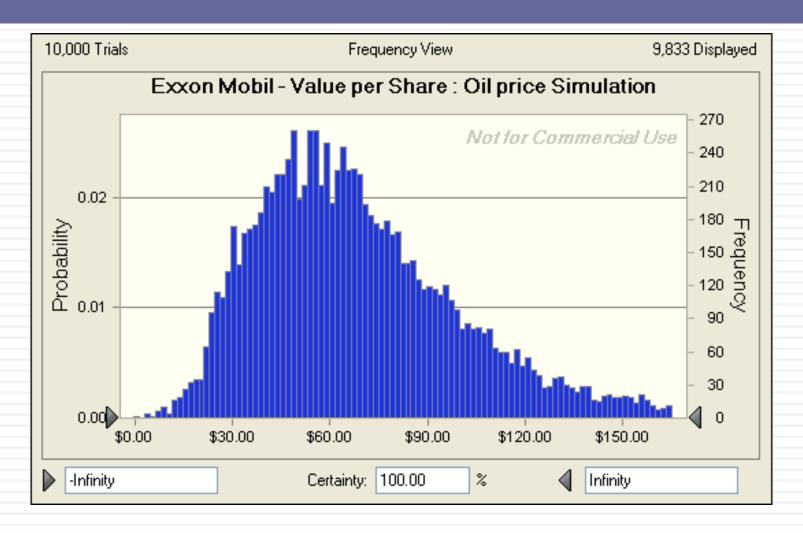
Exxon has been a predominantly equtiy funded company, and is explected to remain so, with a deb ratio of onlly 2.85%: It's cost of equity is 8.35% (based on a beta of 0.90) and its pre-tax cost of debt is 3.75% (given AAA rating). The marginal tax rate is 38%. Cost of capital = 8.35% (.9715) + 3.75% (1-.38) (.0285) = 8.18%.

Expected growth in operating income 3

Since Exxon Mobile is the largest oil company in the world, we will assume an expected growth of only 2% in perpetuity.

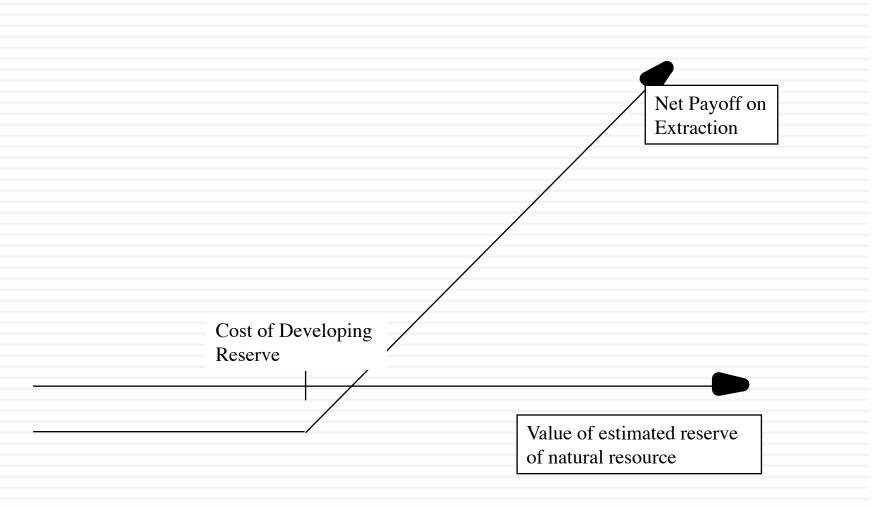
Exxon Mobil Valuation: Simulation

61



The optionality in commodities: Undeveloped reserves as an option

62



Aswath Damodaran

Valuing Gulf Oil

- Gulf Oil was the target of a takeover in early 1984 at \$70 per share (It had 165.30 million shares outstanding, and total debt of \$9.9 billion).
 - It had estimated reserves of 3038 million barrels of oil and the average cost of developing these reserves was estimated to be \$10 a barrel in present value dollars (The development lag is approximately two years).
 - The average relinquishment life of the reserves is 12 years.
 - The price of oil was \$22.38 per barrel, and the production cost, taxes and royalties were estimated at \$7 per barrel.
 - The bond rate at the time of the analysis was 9.00%.
 - Gulf was expected to have net production revenues each year of approximately 5% of the value of the developed reserves. The variance in oil prices is 0.03.

Valuing Undeveloped Reserves

64

- Inputs for valuing undeveloped reserves
 - Value of underlying asset = Value of estimated reserves discounted back for period of development lag= 3038 * (\$ 22.38 \$7) / 1.052 = \$42,380.44
 - Exercise price = Estimated development cost of reserves = 3038 * \$10 = \$30,380 million
 - Time to expiration = Average length of relinquishment option = 12 years
 - Variance in value of asset = Variance in oil prices = 0.03
 - Riskless interest rate = 9%
 - Dividend yield = Net production revenue/ Value of developed reserves = 5%
- Based upon these inputs, the Black-Scholes model provides the following value for the call:
 - d1 = 1.6548 N(d1) = 0.9510
 - $d2 = 1.0548 \quad N(d2) = 0.8542$
- Call Value= $42,380.44 \exp(-0.05)(12) (0.9510) -30,380 (\exp(-0.09)(12) (0.8542) = $13,306 million$

The composite value...

65

- In addition, Gulf Oil had free cashflows to the firm from its oil and gas production of \$915 million from already developed reserves and these cashflows are likely to continue for ten years (the remaining lifetime of developed reserves).
- The present value of these developed reserves, discounted at the weighted average cost of capital of 12.5%, yields:
 - Value of already developed reserves = 915 (1 1.125-10)/.125 = \$5065.83
- Adding the value of the developed and undeveloped reserves

Value of undeveloped reserves = \$ 13,306 million Value of production in place = \$ 5,066 million

Total value of firm = \$ 18,372 million

Less Outstanding Debt = \$ 9,900 million

Value of Equity = \$ 8,472 million

Value per share = \$8,472/165.3 = \$51.25

Big shifts in economic environment (inflation, itnerest rates) can affect operating earnings history. Poor corporate governance and weak accounting standards can lead to lack of transparency on earnings.

Growth rates for a company will be affected heavily be growth rate and political developments in the country in which it operates.

What is the value added by growth assets?

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

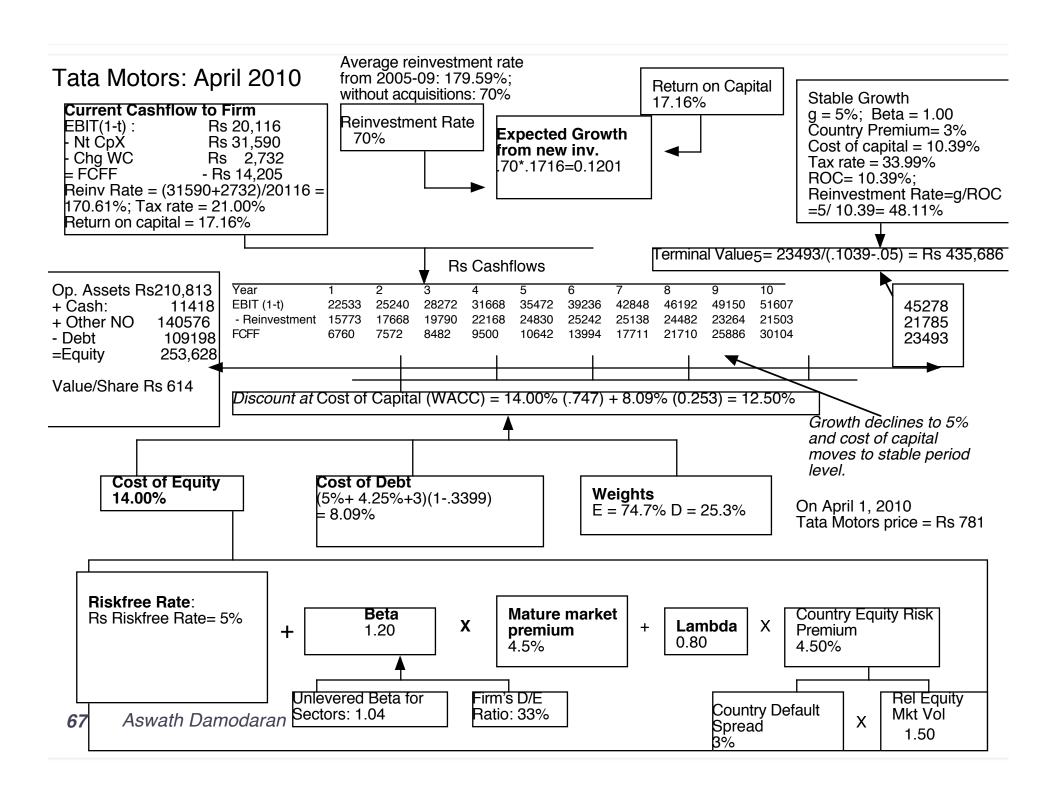
Cross holdings can affect value of equity

Even if the company,Äôs risk is stable , there can be significant changes i n country risk over time

What is the value of equity in the firm?

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

Economic crises can put many companies at risk. Government actions (nationalization) can affect long term value.



Lesson 1: Country Risk Matters...

- As companies expand into emerging markets, drawn by higher growth or lower costs or both, they benefit. There is a cost, though, which comes from the greater uncertainty/risk that you are exposed to in these countries.
- In the 1980s, there were some who argued that country risk is diversifiable (i.e., it will average out across the many countries you are exposed to) and should be ignored. But that view has fallen to the wayside, as correlation across countries has risen.

Measures of "additional" country risk

69

- Default spread on Country Bond: In this approach, the country equity risk premium is set equal to the default spread for the country, which can be estimated in one of three ways:
 - As a default spread on a \$ or Euro bond issued by the country
 - The CDS spread for the country
 - The typical spread given the rating of the country
 - Example: In 2010, for instance, India's rating as a country was Baa1 and the typical default spread for that rating was 3%.
 - Country risk premium for India = 3%
 - Total equity risk premium for India = Mature market premium (4.5%) + CRP (3%) = 7.5%
- Adjusted for equity risk: The country equity risk premium is based upon the volatility of the equity market relative to the government bond rate.
 - Country risk premium= Default Spread* σCountry Equity / σCountry Bond
 - Example: The standard deviation in the Sensex in 2010 was 30%, whereas the standard deviation in the Indian government bond was 20%. The resulting country and total risk premiums are below:
 - Country risk premium for India = 3% (30/20) = 4.5%
 - Total equity risk premium for India = 4.5% + 4.5= 9%

Country Risk Premiu January 2013

0.00%	5.80%
0.00%	5.80%
0.00%	5.80%
	0.00%

Argentina	9.00%	14.80%
Belize	15.00%	20.80%
Bolivia	4.88%	10.68%
Brazil	2.63%	8.43%
Chile	1.05%	6.85%
Colombia	3.00%	8.80%
Costa Rica	3.00%	8.80%
Ecuador	10.50%	16.30%
El Salvador	4.88%	10.68%
Guatemala	3.60%	9.40%
Honduras	7.50%	13.30%
Mexico	2.25%	8.05%
Nicaragua	9.00%	14.80%
Panama	2.63%	8.43%
Paraguay	6.00%	11.80%
Peru	2.63%	8.43%
Uruguay	3.00%	8.80%
Venezuela	6.00%	11.80%
Latin America	3.38%	9.18%

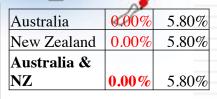
W.Europe	1.05%	6.85%
UK	0.00%	5.80%
Turkey	3.60%	9.40%
Switzerland	0.00%	5.80%
Sweden	0.00%	5.80%
Spain	3.00%	8.80%
Slovenia	2.63%	8.43%
Norway	0.00%	5.80%
Netherlands	0.00%	5.80%
Ireland	3.60%	9.40%
Iceland	3.00%	8.80%
Greece	10.50%	16.30%
Finland	0.00%	5.80%
France	0.38%	6.18%
Denmark	0.00%	5.80%
Austria	0.00%	5.80%
Luxembourg	0.00%	5.80%
Italy	2.63%	8.43%
Portugal	4.88%	10.68%
Germany	0.00%	5.80%
Belgium	1.05%	6.85%

Angola	4.88%	10.68%
Botswana	1.50%	7.30%
Egypt	7.50%	13.30%
Kenya	6.00%	11.80%
Mauritius	2.25%	8.05%
Morocco	3.60%	9.40%
Namibia	3.00%	8.80%
Nigeria	4.88%	10.68%
Senegal	6.00%	11.80%
South Africa	2.25%	8.05%
Tunisia	3.00%	8.80%
Zambia	6.00%	11.80%
Africa	4.29%	10.09%

Albania	6.00%	11.80%
Armenia	4.13%	9.93%
Azerbaijan	3.00%	8.80%
Belarus	9.00%	14.80%
Bosnia &		
Herzegovina	9.00%	14.80%
Bulgaria	2.63%	8.43%
Croatia	3.00%	8.80%
Czech Republic	1.28%	7.08%
Estonia	1.28%	7.08%
Georgia	4.88%	10.68%
Hungary	3.60%	9.40%
Kazakhstan	2.63%	8.43%
Latvia	3.00%	8.80%
Lithuania	2.25%	8.05%
Moldova	9.00%	14.80%
Montenegro	4.88%	10.68%
Poland	1.50%	7.30%
Romania	3.00%	8.80%
Russia	2.25%	8.05%
Slovakia	1.50%	7.30%
Ukraine	9.00%	14.80%
E. Europe &		~
Russia	2.68%	8.48%

Bahrain	2.25%	8.05%
Israel	1.28%	7.08%
Jordan	4.13%	9.93%
Kuwait	0.75%	6.55%
Lebanon	6.00%	11.80%
Oman	1.28%	7.08%
Qatar	0.75%	6.55%
Saudi Arabia	1.05%	6.85%
United Arab Emirates	0.75%	6.55%
Middle East	1.16%	6.96%

Bangladesh	4.88%	10.68%
Cambodia	7.50%	13.30%
China	1.05%	6.85%
Fiji Islands	6.00%	11.80%
Hong Kong	0.38%	6.18%
India	3.00%	8.80%
Indonesia	3.00%	8.80%
Japan	1.05%	6.85%
Korea	1.05%	6.85%
Macao	1.05%	6.85%
Malaysia	1.73%	7.53%
Mongolia	6.00%	11.80%
Pakistan	10.50%	16.30%
Papua New Guinea	6.00%	11.80%
Philippines	3.60%	9.40%
Singapore	0.00%	5.80%
Sri Lanka	6.00%	11.80%
Taiwan	1.05%	6.85%
Thailand	2.25%	8.05%
Vietnam	7.50%	13.30%
Asia	1.55%	7.35%



Black #: Total ERP

Red #: Country risk premium AVG: GDP weighted average

Lesson 2: And you don't have to be an emerging market company to be exposed

- Source of revenues: Other things remaining equal, a company should be more exposed to risk in a country if it generates more of its revenues from that country. A Brazilian firm that generates the bulk of its revenues in Brazil should be more exposed to country risk than one that generates a smaller percent of its business within Brazil.
- Manufacturing facilities: Other things remaining equal, a firm that has all of its production facilities in Brazil should be more exposed to country risk than one which has production facilities spread over multiple countries. The problem will be accented for companies that cannot move their production facilities (mining and petroleum companies, for instance).
- Use of risk management products: Companies can use both options/futures markets and insurance to hedge some or a significant portion of country risk.

Measuring country risk exposure

- If we treat country risk as a separate risk factor and allow firms to have different exposures to country risk (perhaps based upon the proportion of their revenues come from non-domestic sales)
- E(Return)=Riskfree Rate+ b (US premium) + I (Country ERP)
- The easiest and most accessible data is on revenues. Most companies break their revenues down by region. One simplistic solution would be to do the following:
- λ = % of revenues domestically firm/% of revenues domestically avg firm
- Consider two firms Tata Motors and Tata Consulting Services. In 2008-09,
 Tata Motors got about 91.37% of its revenues in India and TCS got 7.62%. The average Indian firm gets about 80% of its revenues in India:
 - ITata Motors = 91%/80% = 1.14
 - □ ITCS = 7.62%/80% = 0.09
- There are two implications
 - A company's risk exposure is determined by where it does business and not by where it is located
 - Firms might be able to actively manage their country risk exposures

Lesson 3: Crossholdings are always a problem, but particularly so in emerging markets

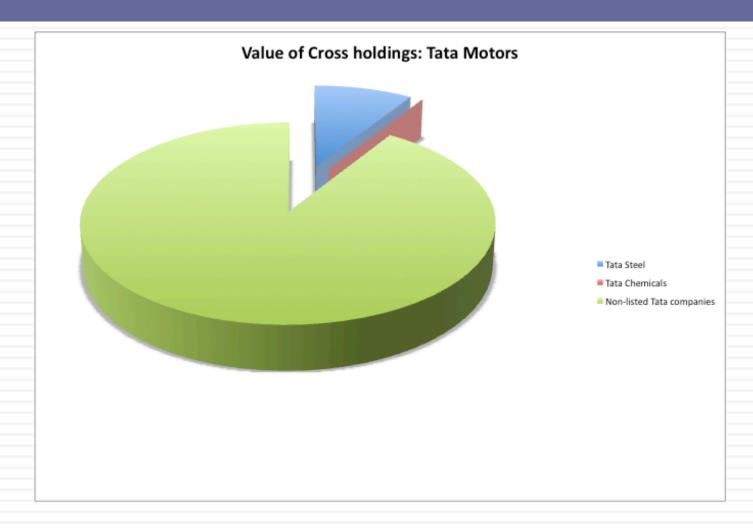
- Holdings in other firms can be categorized into
 - Minority passive holdings, in which case only the dividend from the holdings is shown in the balance sheet
 - Minority active holdings, in which case the share of equity income is shown in the income statements
 - Majority active holdings, in which case the financial statements are consolidated.
- We tend to be sloppy in practice in dealing with cross holdings. After valuing the operating assets of a firm, using consolidated statements, it is common to add on the balance sheet value of minority holdings (which are in book value terms) and subtract out the minority interests (again in book value terms), representing the portion of the consolidated company that does not belong to the parent company.

How to value holdings in other firms.. In a perfect world..

- In a perfect world, we would strip the parent company from its subsidiaries and value each one separately. The value of the combined firm will be
 - Value of parent company + Proportion of value of each subsidiary
- To do this right, you will need to be provided detailed information on each subsidiary to estimated cash flows and discount rates.

Two compromise solutions...

- The market value solution: When the subsidiaries are publicly traded, you could use their traded market capitalizations to estimate the values of the cross holdings. You do risk carrying into your valuation any mistakes that the market may be making in valuation.
- The relative value solution: When there are too many cross holdings to value separately or when there is insufficient information provided on cross holdings, you can convert the book values of holdings that you have on the balance sheet (for both minority holdings and minority interests in majority holdings) by using the average price to book value ratio of the sector in which the subsidiaries operate.



 Assume that you are valuing Venex, a Venezuelan business and have estimated a value of US \$10 billion for the business, which has a book value of \$1 billion.

Lesson 4: Success can be sometimes peril for

- Now assume that there is a 30% chance that your business may be nationalized and that you will receive fair market value, if it is. What is your estimate of value for Venex.
- How would your answer change if you were told that you receive book value, if you are nationalized?

VIII. Valuing Companies across the ownership cycle

Reported income and balance sheet are heavily affected by tax considerations rather than information disclosure requirements. The line between the personal and business expenses is a fine one.

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

What are the cashflows from existing assets?

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

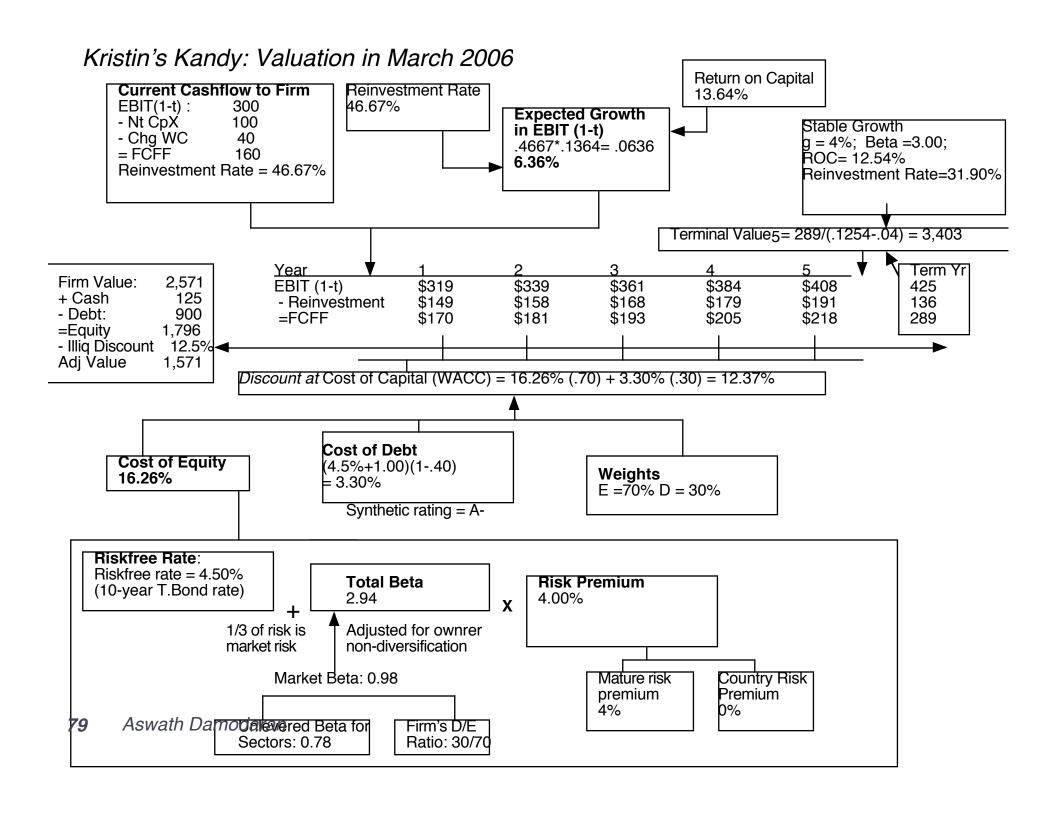
Reversing investment mistakes is difficult to do. The need for and the cost of illiquidity has to be incorporated into current

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

Different buyers can perceive risk differently in the same private business, largely because what they see as risk will be a function of how diversified they are. The fall back positions of using market prices to extract risk measures does not

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

Many private businesses are finite life enterprises, not expected to last into perpetuity



80

Private business owner with entire wealth invested in the business

Venture capitalist, with multiple holdings in the sector.

Public company investor with diversified portfolio

Exposed to all risk in the company. Total beta measures exposure to total risk. Total Beta = Market Beta/ Correlation of firm with market

Partially diversified.
Diversify away some
firm specific risk but not
all. Beta will fall
berbetween total and
market beta.

Firm-specific risk is diversified away.
Market or macro risk exposure captured in a market beta or betas.

Three assessment tools when the buyer falls in the middle...

81

- <u>Build up</u>: Start with cost of equity for a "diversified" investor and add premiums (based upon historical data) for other variables that capture the additional risk borne by "typical" buyer of a private business.
 - Strength: Numbers seem strong because they are backed up by data
 - Weakness: (1) Premiums are all from public markets (2) Double counting
- <u>Total Beta plus</u>: Look at potential buyer (what else the buyer has in his or her portfolio), assess the correlation of that portfolio with the market and estimate a "customized" total beta.
 - Strength: Ties the cost of equity to the buyer, as it should.
 - Weaknesses: (1) Buyers are under no obligation to give you this information (2) Treats private markets as extensions of public ones
- Survey: Find out what buyers of private businesses are demanding as a rate of return when they value private businesses.
 - Strength: Agnostic on risk and return models
 - Weakness: (1) Wide differences in what "required" means across survey respondents (2) Circular logic (3) Works if private capital markets are separate and unconnected to public markets.

Lesson 2: With private firm financial statements, trust but verify..

- Different Accounting Standards: The accounting statements for private firms are often based upon different accounting standards than public firms, which operate under much tighter constraints on what to report and when to report.
- Intermingling of personal and business expenses: In the case of private firms, some personal expenses may be reported as business expenses.
- Separating "Salaries" from "Dividends": It is difficult to tell where salaries end and dividends begin in a private firm, since they both end up with the owner.
- The Key person issue: In some private businesses, with a personal component, the cashflows may be intertwined with the owner being part of the business.

83

- In private company valuation, illiquidity is a constant theme. All the talk, though, seems to lead to a rule of thumb. The illiquidity discount for a private firm is between 20-30% and does not vary across private firms.
- But illiquidity should vary across:
 - Companies: Healthier and larger companies, with more liquid assets, should have smaller discounts than money-losing smaller businesses with more illiquid assets.
 - Time: Liquidity is worth more when the economy is doing badly and credit is tough to come by than when markets are booming.
 - Buyers: Liquidity is worth more to buyers who have shorter time horizons and greater cash needs than for longer term investors who don't need the cash and are willing to hold the investment.

84

- Restricted stock: These are stock issued by publicly traded companies to the market that bypass the SEC registration process but the stock cannot be traded for one year after the issue.
- Pre-IPO transactions: These are transactions prior to initial public offerings where equity investors in the private firm buy (sell) each other's stakes.
- In both cases, the discount is estimated the be the difference between the market price of the liquid asset and the observed transaction price of the illiquid asset.
 - Discount Restricted stock = Stock price Price on restricted stock offering
 - DiscountIPO = IPO offering price Price on pre-IPO transaction

The "alternative" approaches

- Bid-ask spreads: All traded assets are illiquid. The bid ask spread, measuring the difference between the price at which you can buy and sell the asset at the same point in time is the illiquidity measure. I few can extrapolate what we know about bid ask spreads with public companies into the private company space, we could have a more dynamic, complete measure of illiquidity.
 - □ Spread = 0.145 0.0022 In (Annual Revenues) -0.015 (DERN) 0.016 (Cash/Firm Value) 0.11 (\$ Monthly trading volume/ Firm Value)
- Option pricing: Liquidity can be viewed as a put option, where you get the right to sell at the prevailing market price.
 Illiquidity can therefore be viewed as the loss of this put option.

- Valuation becomes more difficult as we move away from the standard script: money making manufacturing companies with long histories.
- When valuation becomes more difficult, you will be tempted to abandon first principles in valuation and told that discounted cash flow (and intrinsic) valuation don't work for "these" companies. Instead, you will be asked to look at alternate metrics and models to price these companies.
- The architecture of conventional valuation is strong enough to allow us to value any company, but it does require us to be flexible (in our approaches and use of models) and creative (in making estimates and dealing with uncertainty).
- □ The payoff to doing intrinsic valuation is greatest with these "difficult to value" companies, because most people give up.

Back to Lemmings...

