NUMBERS AND NARRATIVE: MODELING, STORY TELLING AND INVESTING

Aswath Damodaran

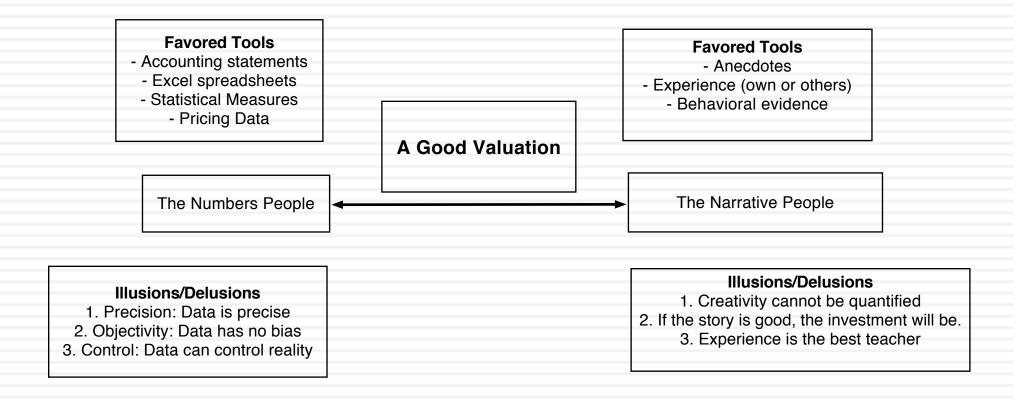
Numbers person or Story teller?

Vive le difference!

What are you?

- If you were asked to categorize yourself, would you more naturally think of yourself as a
 - a) Numbers Person
 - b) Story Person
 - c) Not sure
- When did you make this decision and how has it affected your educational and career choices?
- As you get older, do you find yourself becoming more of whatever you chose?

Bridging the Gap



FROM NARRATIVE TO NUMBERS: THE MECHANICS

The Steps

Step 1: Develop a narrative for the business that you are valuing In the narrative, you tell your story about how you see the business evolving over

Step 2: Test the narrative to see if it is possible, plausible and probable

There are lots of possible narratives, not all of them are plausible and only a few of them are probable.

Step 3: Convert the narrative into drivers of value

Take the narrative apart and look at how you will bring it into valuaton inputs starting with potential market size down to cash flows and risk. By the time you are done, each part of the narrative should have a place in your numbers and each number should be backed up a portion of your story.

Step 4: Connect the drivers of value to a valuation

Create an intrinsic valuation model that connects the inputs to an end-value the business.

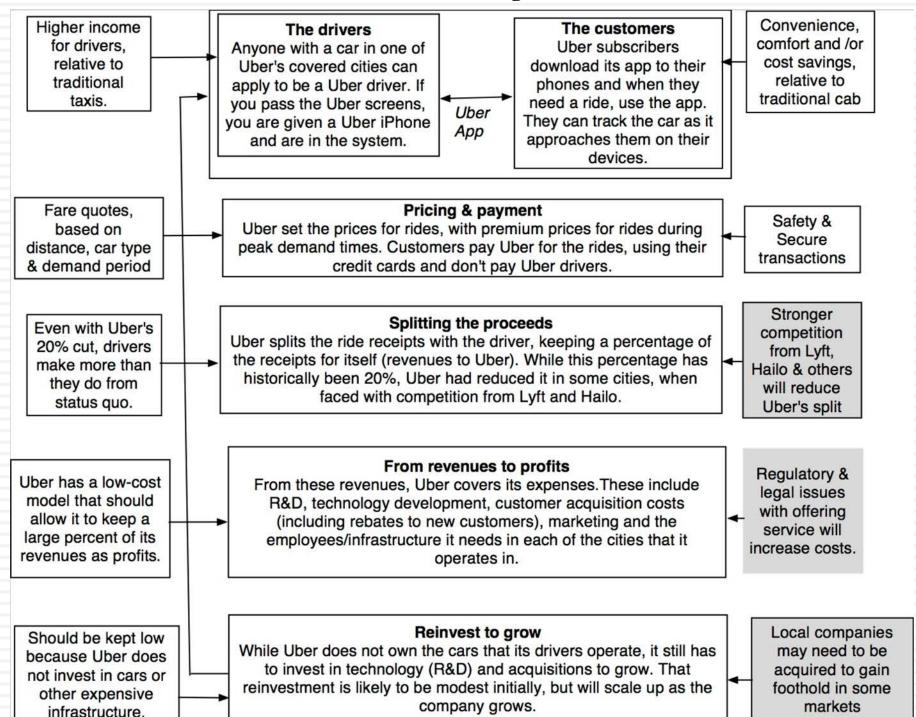
Step 5: Keep the feedback loop open

Listen to people who know the business better than you do and use their suggestions to fine tune your narrative and perhaps even alter it. Work out the effects on value of alternative narratives for the company.

Step 1a: Survey the landscape

- Every valuation starts with a narrative, a story that you see unfolding for your company in the future.
- In developing this narrative, you will be making assessments of
 - Your company (its products, its management and its history.
 - The market or markets that you see it growing in.
 - The competition it faces and will face.
 - The macro environment in which it operates.

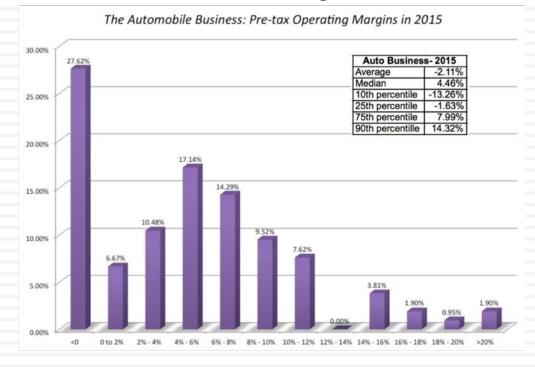
Understanding Uber in 2014



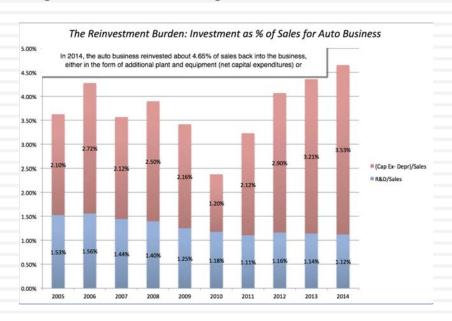
Low Growth

Understanding Ferrari in 2015 It is in the Auto Business Low Margins

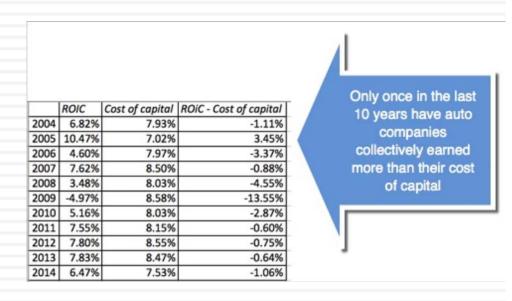
Year ▼	Revenues (\$) 🔻	% Growth Rate
2005	1,274,716.60	
2006	1,421,804.20	11.54%
2007	1,854,576.40	30.44%
2008	1,818,533.00	-1.94%
2009	1,572,890.10	-13.51%
2010	1,816,269.40	15.47%
2011	1,962,630.40	8.06%
2012	2,110,572.20	7.54%
2013	2,158,603.00	2.28%
2014	2,086,124.80	-3.36%
ounded Avera	age =	5.63%



High & Increasing Reinvestment



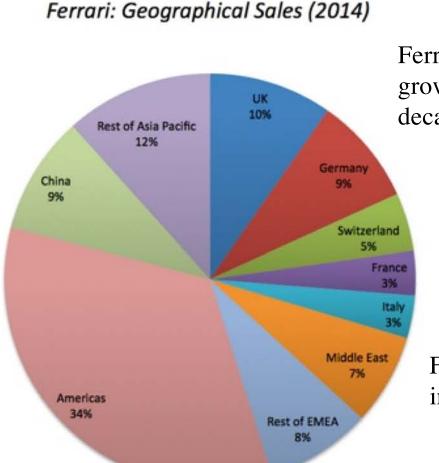
Bad Business



But it is not just another auto company...

Ferrari sold only 7,255 cars in all of 2014

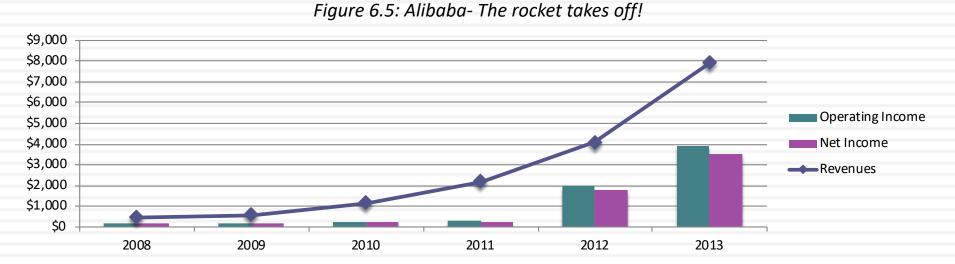
Ferrari had a profit margin of 18.2%, in the 95th percentile, partly because of its high prices and partly because it spends little on advertising.



Ferrari sales (in units) have grown very little in the last decade & have been stable

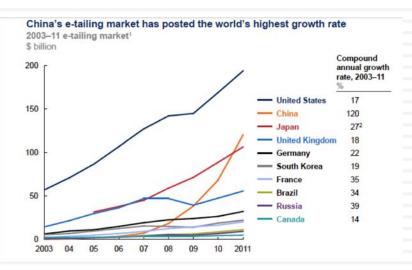
Ferrari has not invested in new plants.

Alibaba: The Rocket takes off...



Market Domination

	B2C		C2C		Mobile		Online Payment
Tmall	49.08%	ТаоВао	92.59%	ТаоВао	81.45%	Alipay	49%
JingDong	18.16%	Paipai	5.56%	JingDong	6.67%	Tenpay	20%
Tencent B2C	5.68%	Eachnet	1.85%	Maimaibao	1.11%	Unionpay	10%
Suning	4.30%		7.5	Suning	1.01%	Others	21%
Amazon China	2.72%	7		Amazon	0.84%		d.
Dangdang	2.12%	7		Others	8.92%	7	
Others	17.94%	7				_	



In the fastest growing market in the world 11

Step 1b: Create a narrative for the future

- Every valuation starts with a narrative, a story that you see unfolding for your company in the future.
- In developing this narrative, you will be making assessments of your company (its products, its management), the market or markets that you see it growing in, the competition it faces and will face and the macro environment in which it operates.
 - Rule 1: Keep it simple.
 - Rule 2: Keep it focused.

The Uber Narrative: An Urban, Car Service disruptor

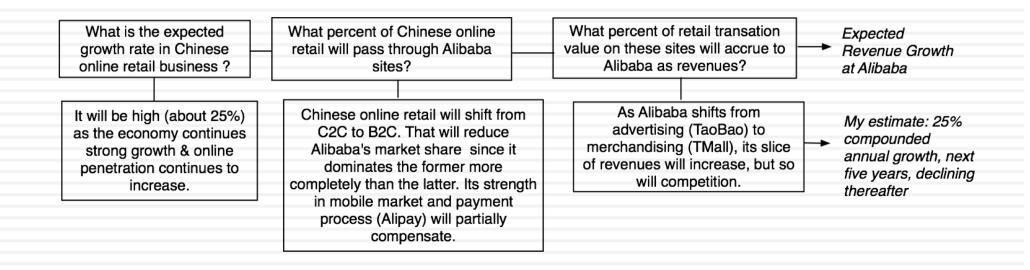
In June 2014, my initial narrative for Uber was that it would be

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

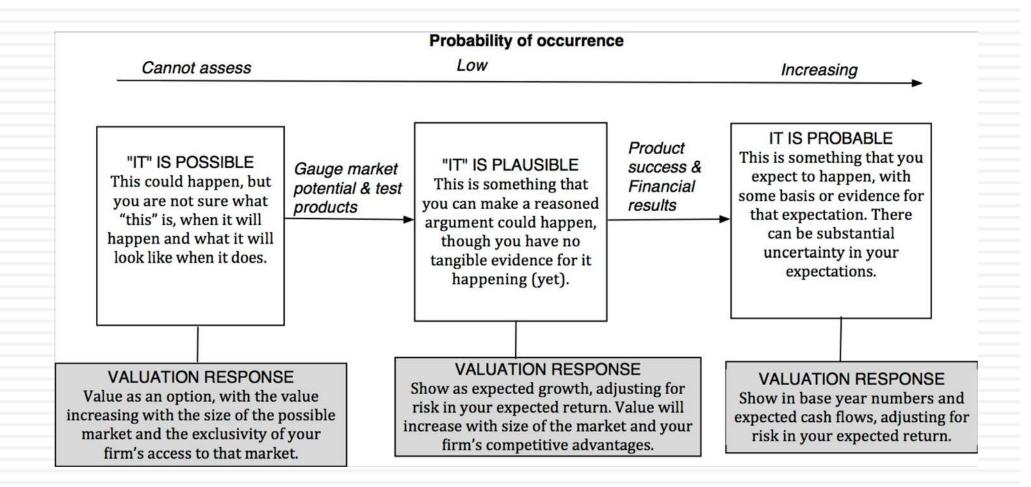
The Ferrari Narrative: An Exclusive Club

- Ferrari will stay an exclusive auto club, deriving its allure from its scarcity and the fact that only a few own Ferraris.
- By staying exclusive, the company gets three benefits:
 - It can continue to charge nose bleed prices for its cars and sell them with little or no advertising.
 - It does not need to invest in new assembly plants, since it does not plan to ramp up production.
 - It sells only to the super rich, who are unaffected by overall economic conditions or market crises.

The Alibaba Narrative: The China Story



Step 2: Check the narrative against history, economic first principles & common sense



The Impossible, The Implausible and the **Improbable**

The Impossible

Bigger than the economy Assuming Growth rate for

company in perpetuity> Growth rate for economy

Bigger than the total market

Allowing a company's revenues to grow so much that it has more than a 100% market share of whatever business it is in.

Profit margin > 100%

Assuming earnings growth will exceeds revenue growth for a long enough period, and pushing margins above 100%

Depreciation without cap ex

Assuming that depreciation will exceed cap ex in perpetuity.

The Implausible

Growth without reinvestment

Assuming growth forever without reinvestment.

Profits without competition

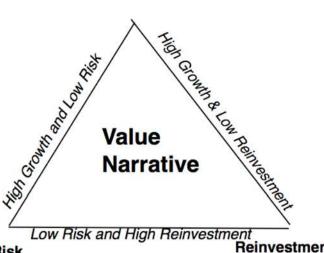
Assuming that your company will grow and earn higher profits, with no competition.

Returns without risk

Assuming that you can generate high returns in a business with no risk.

The Improbable

Growth



Reinvestment Risk

The Improbable: Willy Wonkitis

Tesla: Summary 15-year DCF Analysis (DCF valuation as of mid-year 2013)

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Unit Volume	24,298	36,883	64,684	86,713	149,869	214,841	291,861	384,747	466,559	550,398	643,850	726,655	820,645	922,481	1,034,215	1,137,780
% Growth	//200	52%	75%	34%	73%	43%	36%	32%	21%	18%	17%	13%	1386	12%	12%	10%
Automotive Revenue Per Unit (\$)	93,403	85,342	83,432	78,932	65,465	58,258	56,407	55,553	55,991	56,586	56,969	57,540	58,138	58,603	59,002	59,554
% Growth		-9%	-2%	-5%	-17%	-11%	-3%	-2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	176	1%	1%
Automotive Sales	2,462	3,321	5,613	7,051	10,025	12,720	16,685	21,595	26,347	31,357	36,897	42,022	47,949	54,283	61,221	67,980
Development Service Sales	16	40	42	44	46	49	51	54	56	59	62	65	68	72	75	79
Total Sales	2,478	3,361	5,655	7,095	10,072	12,768	16,736	21,648	26,403	31,416	36,959	42,087	48,017	54,355	61,296	68,059
% Growth		36%	68%	25%	42%	27%	31%	29%	22%	19%	18%	14%	14%	13%	13%	11%
EBITDA	148	417	920	1,042	1,586	2,150	3,138	4,066	4,857	5,723	6,328	7,182	8,144	9,688	10,874	12,099
% Margin	6.0%	12.4%	16.3%	14.7%	15.7%	16.8%	18.7%	18.8%	18.4%	18.2%	17.1%	17.1%	17.0%	17.8%	17.7%	17.8%
D&A	103	158	172	203	301	353	389	537	606	696	811	938	1,088	1,260	1,451	1,661
% of Capex	41%	79%	55%	65%	62%	69%	78%	86%	79%	77%	75%	76%	76%	76%	76%	77%
EBIT	45	259	748	839	1,285	1,796	2,749	3,529	4,252	5,027	5,517	6,244	7,056	8,429	9,423	10,439
% Margin	1.8%	7.7%	13.2%	11.8%	12.8%	14.1%	16,4%	16.3%	16 1%	16.0%	14.9%	14.8%	14.7%	15.5%	15.4%	15.3%
Net Interest Income (Expense)	(27)	(1)	9	33	47	90	108	155	199	278	358	445	542	651	784	934
Other Income	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pretax Income	46	258	758	872	1,332	1,886	2,857	3,684	4,451	5,305	5,875	6,688	7,598	9,080	10,207	11,373
Income Taxes	3	2	14	34	86	262	462	641	807	1,003	1,134	1,317	1,470	1,761	2,028	2,323
% Effective Rate	6%	1%	2%	456	6%	14%	16%	17%	1896	19%	19%	20%	1996	19%	20%	20%
Net Income	44	256	744	839	1,246	1,624	2,395	3,043	3,644	4,303	4,741	5,372	6,128	7,319	8,179	9,050
Plus																
After-tax Interest Expense (Income)	27	1	(9)	(33)	(47)	(90)	(108)	(154)	(199)	(278)	(357)	(444)	(541)	(650)	(782)	(932)
Depreciation of PP&E	103	158	172	203	301	353	389	537	606	696	811	938	1,088	1,260	1,451	1,661
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less																
Change in Working Capital	(155)	(14)	(157)	(167)	(172)	(325)	(163)	(81)	(28)	(299)	(356)	(328)	(219)	(329)	(365)	(376)
% of Change in Sales		-2%	-7%	-12%	-6%	-12%	-4%	-2%	-1%	-6%	-6%	-6%	-4%	-5%	-5%	-6%
Capital Expenditures	250	200	312	312	486	510	497	623	765	906	1,078	1,236	1,437	1,660	1,898	2,149
% of Sales	10%	6%	6%	4%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlevered Free Cash Flow	78	229	750	863	1,186	1,702	2,343	2,884	3,314	4,113	4,472	4,959	5,456	6,597	7,315	8,005

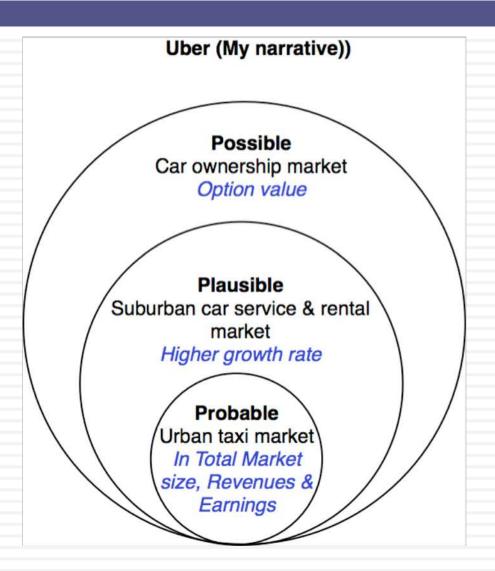
EBITDA	12,099
Sales	68,059
Net Debt (Cash)	(260)
Testa Diluted Shares	142

Exit EBITDA High	12.0 x	Exit PPG High	5.0%	Exit P/Sales High	180%
Exit EBITDA Low	8.0 x	Exit PPG Low	3.0%	Exit P/Sales Low	130%

Discount Rate High 13.0% FY Month of Valuation 1.0 (Beginning of this Month)
Discount Rage Low 9.0% Month of FY End 12.0 (End of this Month)

Uber: Possible, Plausible and Probable

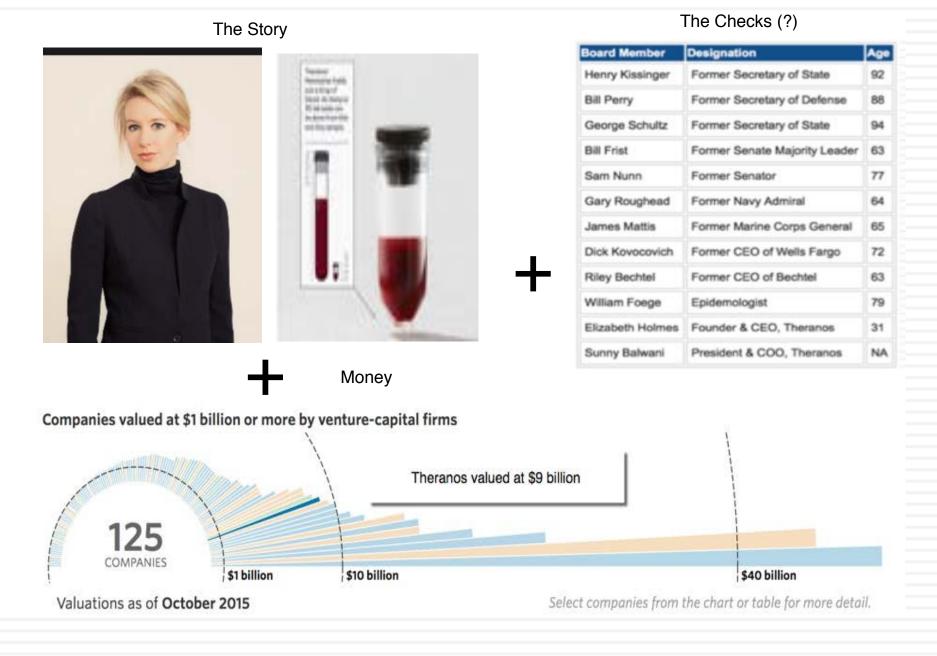
The larger & more ambitious your story, the more onus there is on you to show that it is possible, plausible & probable.



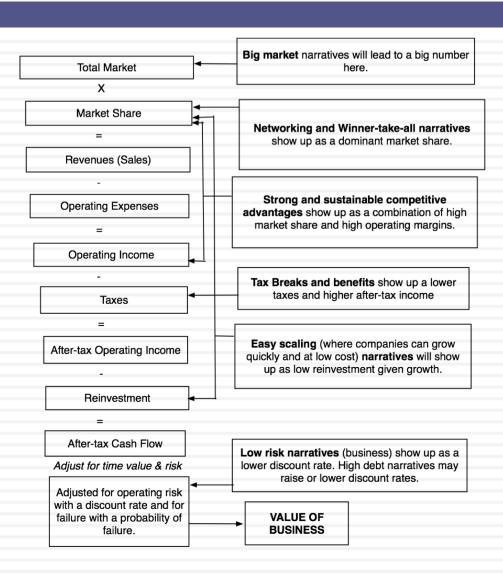
The Runaway Story: When you want a story to be true...

- With a runaway business story, you usually have three ingredients:
 - Charismatic, likeable Narrator: The narrator of the business story is someone that you want to see succeed, either because you like the narrator or because he/she will be a good role model.
 - Telling a story about disrupting a much business, where you dislike the status quo: The status quo in the business that the story is disrupting is dissatisfying (to everyone involved)>
 - 3. With a societal benefit as bonus: And if the story holds, society and humanity will benefit.
- Since you want this story to work out, you stop asking questions, because the answers may put the story at risk.

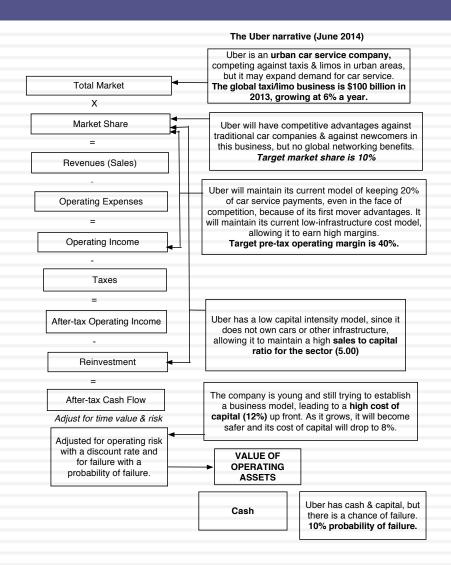
The Impossible: The Runaway Story



Step 4a: Connect your narrative to key drivers of value



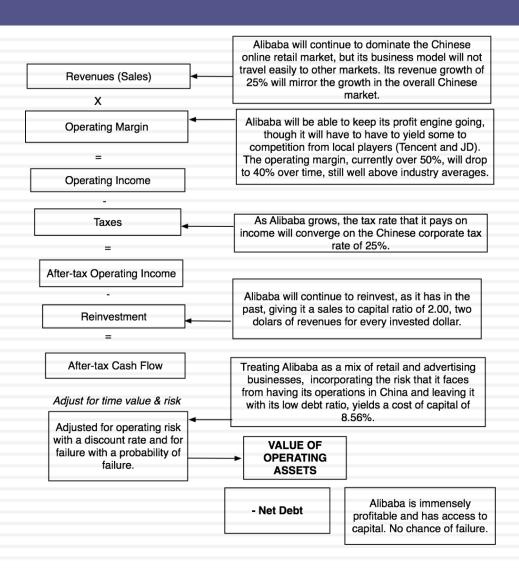
The Uber Link



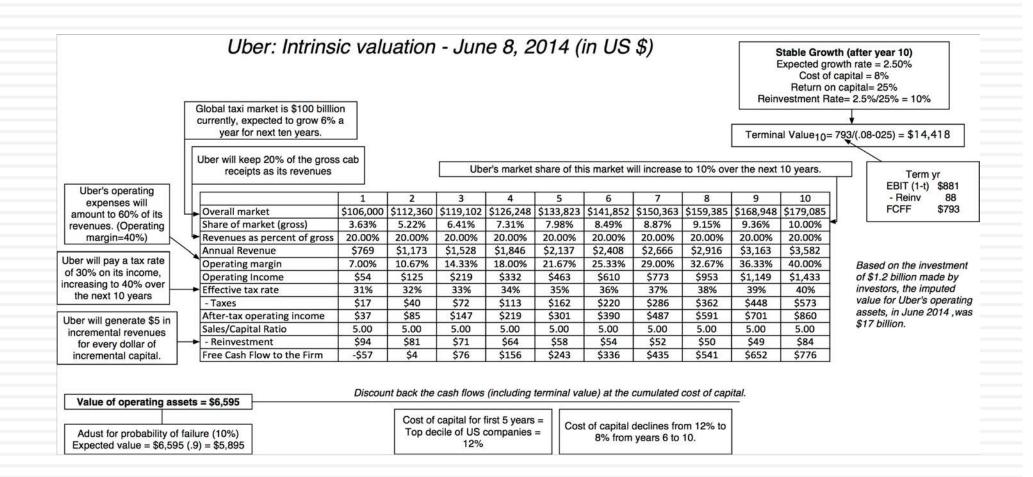
Ferrari: From story to numbers

The Story	Valuation Inputs
Keep it scarce	Revenue growth of 4% (in Euro terms) a
	year for next 5 years, scaling down to 0.7% in year 10. Translates into an increase in production of about 25% in next 10 years
And pricey	Ferrari's pre-tax operating margin stays at 18.2%, in the 95th percentile of auto business.
Little need for capacity expansion	Sales/Invested Capital stays at 1.42, i.e. every euro invested generates 1.42 euros in sales
Super-rich clients are recession-proof	Cost of capital of 6.96% in Euros and no chance of default.
	Keep it scarce And pricey Little need for capacity expansion Super-rich clients are

The Alibaba Revenue/Margin Inputs



Step 4b: Value the company (Uber)



Ferrari: The "Exclusive Club" Value

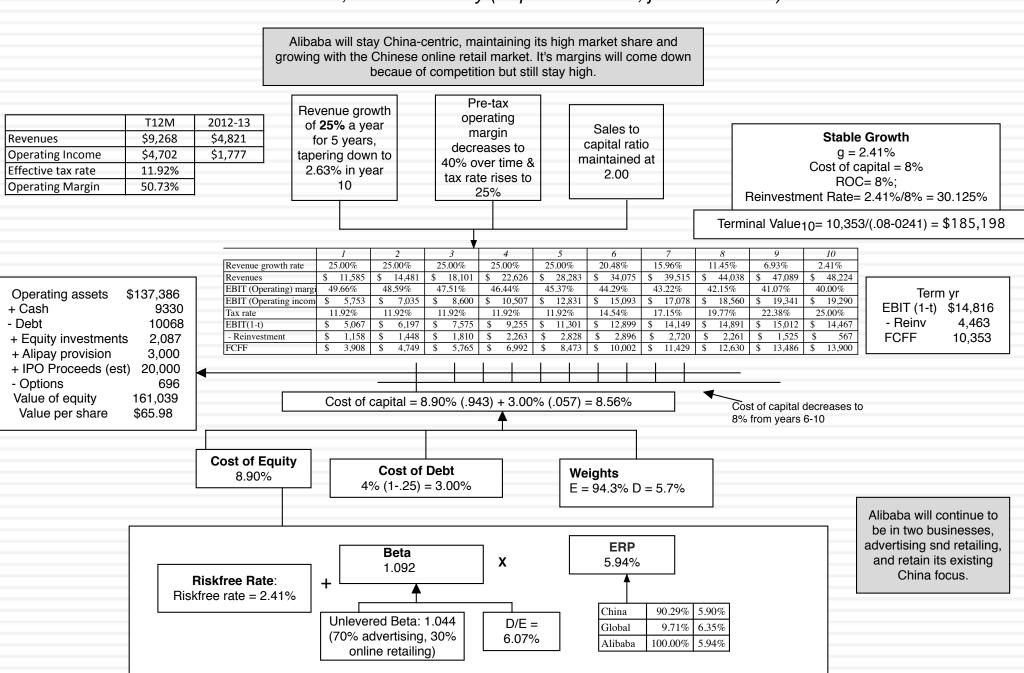
									Sta	y Su	per	Excl	usiv	e: Re	eve	nue (grov	wth is	s lo	w					
	Ва	se year		I		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	Ter	minal year	r
Revenue growth rate			4.	00%	4.	00%	4.	00%	4.	00%	4.0	00%	3.3	34%	2.	68%	2.	02%	1.	36%	0.	70%		0.70%]
Revenues	€	2,763	€	2,874	€ :	2,988	€	3,108	€:	3,232	€ 3	,362	€ 3	3,474	€ :	3,567	€	3,639	€	3,689	€	3,714	€	3,740	
EBIT (Operating) margin		18.20%	18	.20%	18	20%	18	.20%	18	.20%	18.	20%	18.	20%	18	.20%	18	.20%	18	.20%	18	.20%		18.20%	
EBIT (Operating income)	€	503	€	523	€	544	€	566	€	588	€	612	€	632	€	649	€	662	€	671	€	676	€	681	
Tax rate		33.54%	33	54%	33	54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33.	54%	33.	54%	33	54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33	.54%		33.54%	
EBIT(1-t)	€	334	€	348	€	361	€	376	€	391	€	407	€	420	€	431	€	440	€	446	€	449	€	452	
- Reinvestment			€	78	€	81	€	84	€	87	€	91	€	79	€	66	€	51	€	35	€	18	€	22	
FCFF			€	270	€	281	€	292	€	303	€	316	€	341	€	366	€	389	€	411	€	431	€	431	
Cost of capital			6.	96%	6.	96%	6.	96%	6.	96%	6.9	16%	6.9	96%	6.	97%	6.	98%	6.	99%	7.	00%		7.00%	
PV(FCFF)			€	252	€	245	€	238	€	232	€	225	€	228	€	228	€	227	€	224	€	220			
Terminal value	€	6,835																							
PV(Terminal value)	€	3,485																							
PV (CF over next 10 years)	€	2,321																							
Value of operating assets =	€	5,806																							
- Debt	€	623																							
- Minority interests	€	13																							
+ Cash	€	1,141																							
Value of equity	€	6,311																							

High Prices
+ No selling
cost =
Preserve
current
operating
margin

Minimal Reinvestment due to low growth

The super rich are not sensitive to economic downturns

Alibaba, the China Story (September 2014, just before IPO)



Step 5: Keep the feedback loop open

- When you tell a story about a company (either explicitly or implicitly), it is natural to feel attached to that story and to defend it against all attacks. Nothing can destroy an investor more than hubris.
- Being open to other views about a company is not easy, but here are some suggestions that may help:
 - Face up to the uncertainty in your own estimates of value.
 - Present the valuation to people who don't think like you do.
 - Create a process where people who disagree with you the most have a say.
 - Provide a structure where the criticisms can be specific and pointed, rather than general.

The Uber Feedback Loop: Bill Gurley

- Not just car service company.: Uber is a car company, not just a car service company, and there may be a day when consumers will subscribe to a Uber service, rather than own their own cars. It could also expand into logistics, i.e., moving and transportation businesses.
- Not just urban: Uber can create new demands for car service in parts of the country where taxis are not used (suburbia, small towns).
- Global networking benefits: By linking with technology and credit card companies, Uber can have global networking benefits.

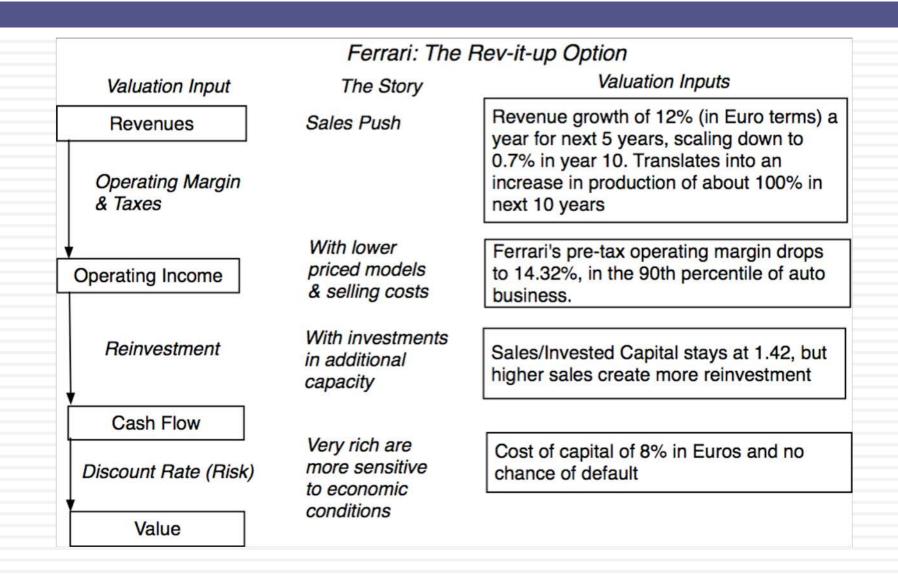
Valuing Bill Gurley's Uber narrative

	Uber (Gurley)	Uber (Gurley Mod)	Uber (Damodaran)
Narrative	Uber will expand the car service	Uber will expand the car service	Uber will expand the car service
	market substantially, bringing in	market substantially, bringing in	market moderately, primarily in
	mass transit users & non-users	mass transit users & non-users from	urban environments, and use its
	from the suburbs into the market,	the suburbs into the market, and use	competitive advantages to get a
	and use its <u>networking</u> advantage	its <u>networking advantage</u> to gain a	significant but not dominant
	to gain a dominant market share,	dominant market share, while	market share and maintain its
	while maintaining its revenue slice	cutting prices and margins (to 10%).	revenue slice at 20%.
	at 20%.		
Total	\$300 billion, growing at 3% a year	\$300 billion, growing at 3% a year	\$100 billion, growing at 6% a year
Market			
Market	40%	40%	10%
Share			
Uber's	20%	10%	20%
revenue			
slice			
Value for	\$53.4 billion + Option value of	\$28.7 billion + Option value of	\$5.9 billion + Option value of
Uber	entering car ownership market	entering car ownership market (\$6	entering car ownership market (\$2-
	(\$10 billion+)	billion+)	3 billion)

Different narratives, Different Numbers

Total Market	Growth Effect	Network Effect	Competitive Advantages	Value of Uber
A4. Mobility Services	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	\$90,457
A3. Logistics	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	\$65,158
A4. Mobility Services	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	\$52,346
A2. All car service	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	\$47,764
A1. Urban car service	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	\$31,952
A3. Logistics	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	\$14,321
A1. Urban car service	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	\$7,127
A2. All car service	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	\$4,764
A4. Mobility Services	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	\$1,888
A3. Logistics	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	\$1,417
A2. All car service	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	\$1,094
A1. Urban car service	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	\$799

The Ferrari Counter Narrative



Ferrari: The "Rev-it-up" Alternative

				Get less exclusive: Double number of cars sold over next decade																				
	Ba	se year		1 2				3			4 5		6		7		8		9		10		Ter	minal year
Revenue growth rate			12	.00%	12	.00%	12	12.00% 12.00%		.00%	12.00%		9.74%		7.	48%	5.	22%	2.	96%	0.70%		0.70%	
Revenues	€	2,763	€	3,095	€ :	3,466	€	3,882	€	4,348	€ 4	1,869	€ :	5,344	€ .	5,743	€	6,043	€	6,222	€	6,266	€	6,309
EBIT (Operating) margin		18.20%	17	.81%	17	.42%	17	.04%	16	.65%	16.	26%	15	.87%	15	.48%	15	.10%	14	.71%	14	.32%		14.32%
EBIT (Operating income)	€	503	€	551	€	604	€	661	€	724	€	792	€	848	€	889	€	912	€	915	€	897	€	904
Tax rate		33.54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33.	54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33	.54%	33	.54%		33.54%
EBIT(1-t)	€	334	€	366	€	401	€	439	€	481	€	526	€	564	€	591	€	606	€	608	€	596	€	600
- Reinvestment			€	233	€	261	€	293	€	328	€	367	€	334	€	281	€	211	€	126	€	31	€	35
FCFF			€	133	€	140	€	147	€	153	€	159	€	230	€	310	€	395	€	482	€	566	€	565
Cost of capital			8.	00%	8.	00%	8.	8.00% 8.00%		8.00% 7.90%		7.80%		7.70%		7.60%		7.50%			7.50%			
PV(FCFF)			€	123	€	120	€	117	€	113	€	108	€	145	€	181	€	215	€	244	€	266		
Terminal value	€	8,315																						
PV(Terminal value)	€	3,906																						
PV (CF over next 10 years)	€	1,631																						
Value of operating assets =	€	5,537																						
- Debt	€	623																						
- Minority interests	€	13																						
+ Cash	€	1,141																						
Value of equity	€	6,042																						

Lower
Prices +
Some selling
cost = Lower
operating
margin

Reinvestment reflects higher sales

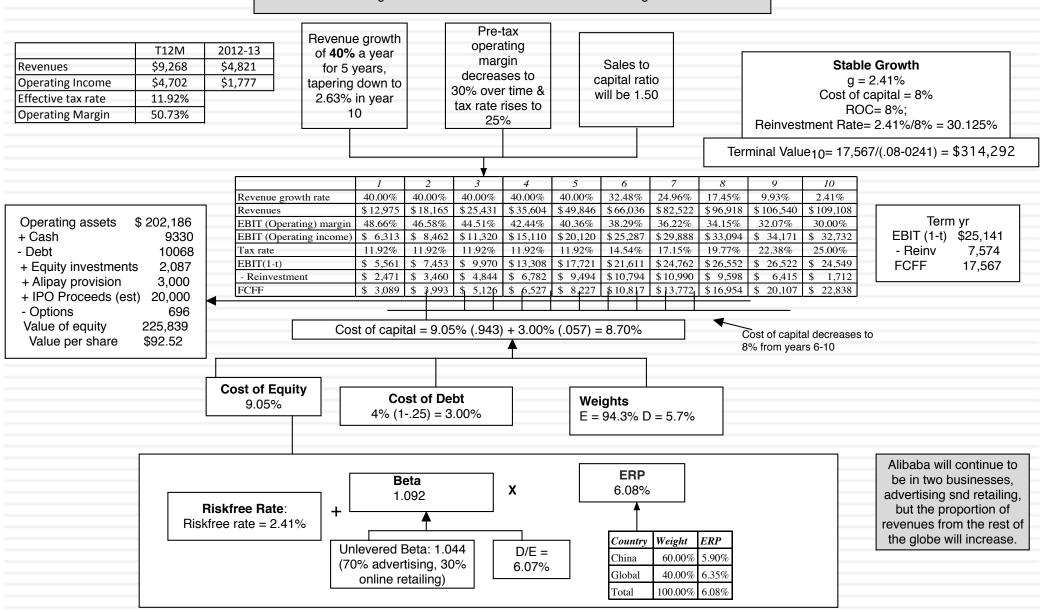
The very rich are more sensitive to economic conditions

And the world is full of feedback.. My Ferrari afterthought!



Alibaba, the Global Story (September 2014, just before IPO)

Alibaba is able to expand into overseas markets, allowing its revenues to grow 40% a year for the next 5 years. Its profit margins will come under pressure as it competes in foreign markets and it will need to reinvest more to grow.

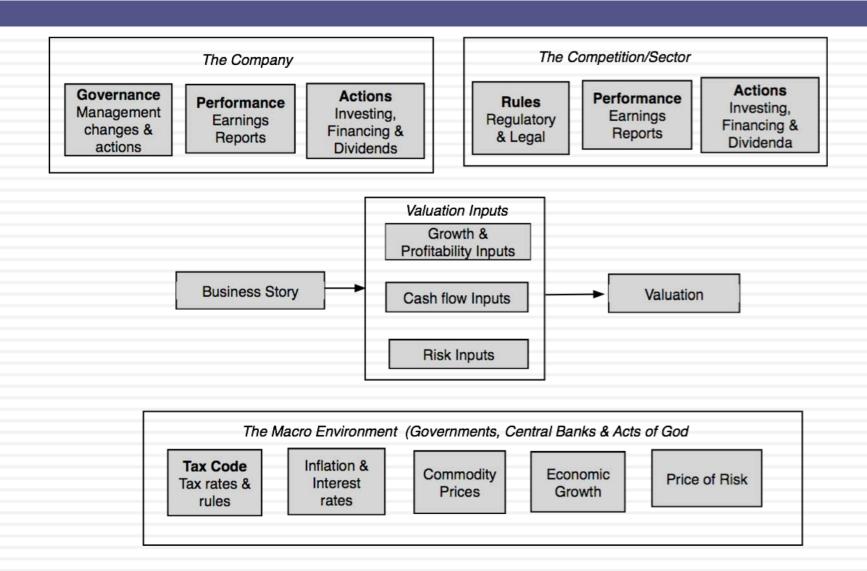


Narrative breaks, shifts & changes

"When my information changes, I alter my conclusions. What do you do, sir?"

Lord Keynes

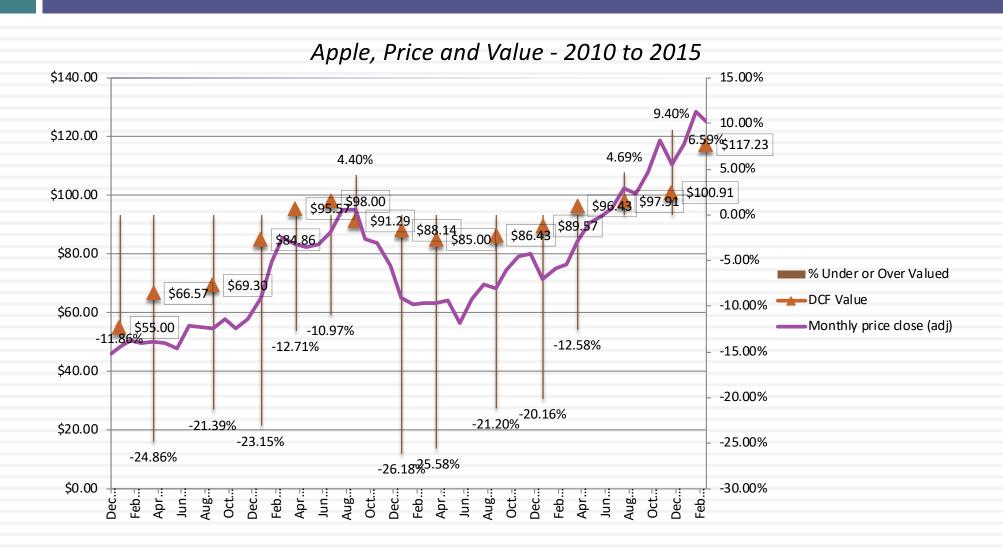
Why narratives change



How narratives change

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

Sometimes your story does not change...



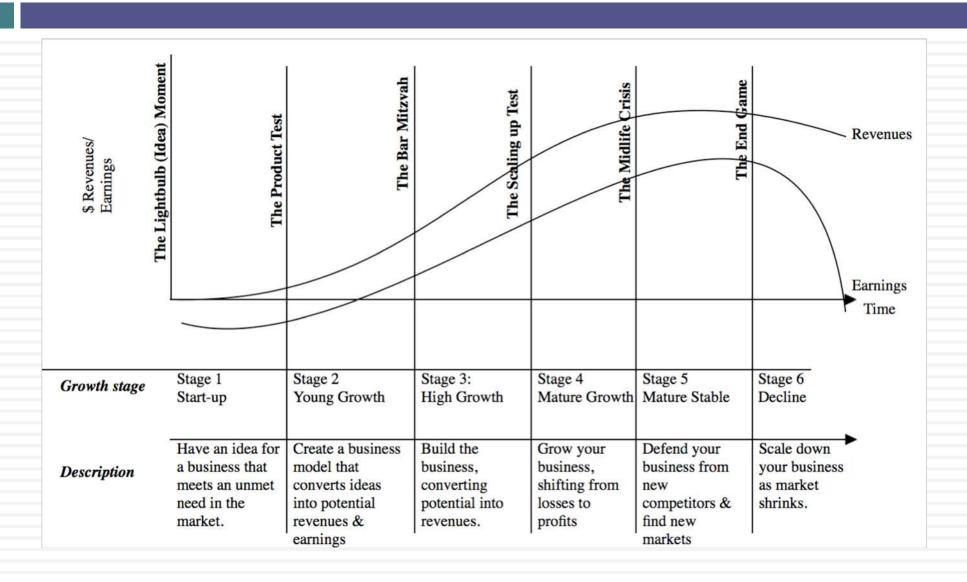
And sometimes it does.. Facebook's Evolution

Report Date	Active Users	Mobile Active Users	% of revenue from Mobile	Net Income	Capital	T12m Sales/Capital
7/26/12	955	543	NR	(\$157)	\$3,515	1.23
10/23/12	1010	604	NR	(\$59)	\$4,252	1.09
1/30/13	1060	680	23.00%	\$64	\$4,120	1.24
5/1/13	1100	751	30.00%	\$219	\$4,272	1.28
7/24/13	1150	819	41.00%	(\$152)	\$3,948	1.55
10/30/13	1190	874	49.00%	\$425	\$4,007	1.71
1/29/14	1230	945	53.00%	\$523	\$4,258	1.85
4/23/14	1280	1010	59.00%	\$642	\$4,299	2.07
7/23/14	1320	1070	62.00%	\$791	\$4,543	2.20

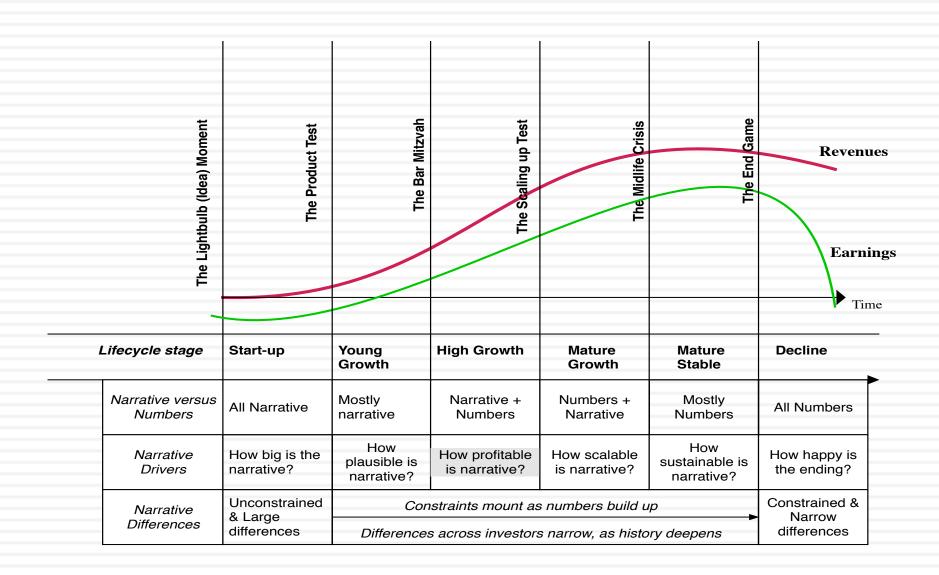
Managers: Narrative or Numbers?

"Management is, above all, a practice where art, science, and craft meet"

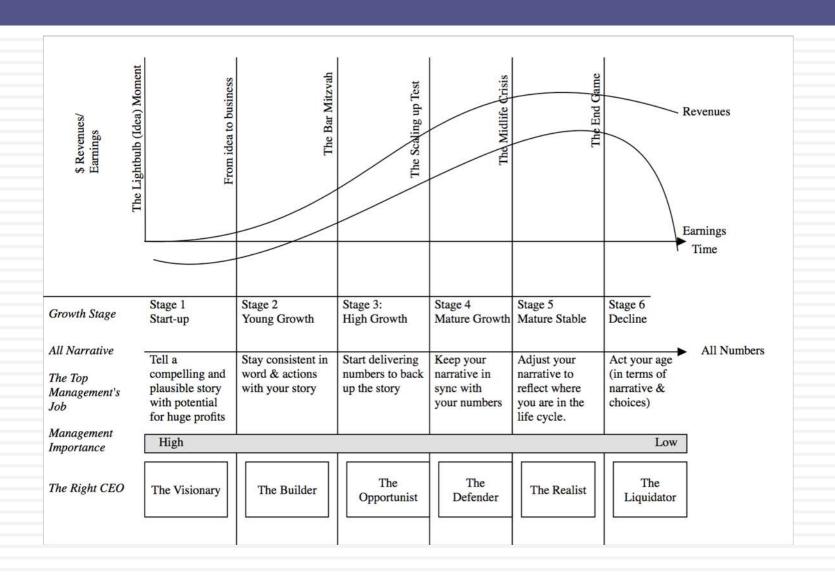
Introducing the corporate life cycle



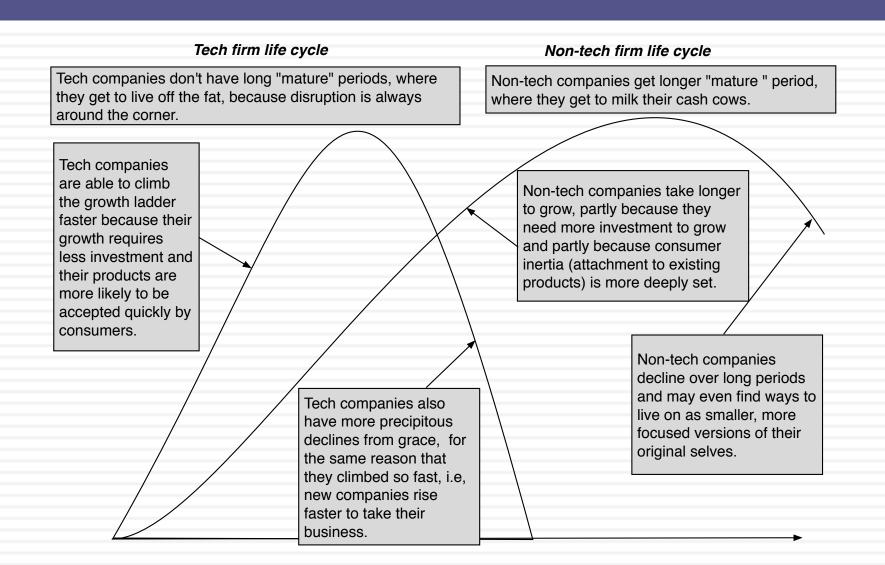
Connecting to narratives...



The Managerial Challenge



The Compressed Life Cycle?



The Consequences

- When life cycles were long, stretching over decades, time and aging allowed for smoother transitions, since CEOs aged with their companies, and moved on.
- As life cycles shorten, managers are far more likely to find their companies changing under them so quickly that they can no longer adapt.
 - To be a long tenured CEO, you will either need to be versatile and/or be able to delegate the work that you cannot do to people you empower and trust.
 - If these transitions are not well managed, there will be far more turnover in top management and activist investing will flourish.

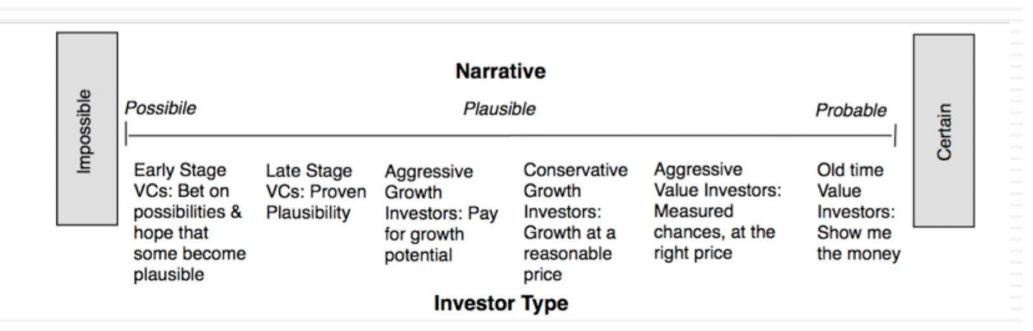
Investors: Narrative or Numbers?

"Show me the money"

The Investor Challenge

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3:	Stage 4 & 5	Stage 6
Start-up	Young Growth	High Growth	Mature Stable	Decline
Is there a market for the product or service? How big is that market? Will you survive?	Do people use your product or service? How much do they like it?	Will people pay for the product or service? Can you scale up, i.e., grow as you get bigger?	Can you make money of the product and service and sustain profitability in the face of competition?	What will you get if you sell your assets? How do you plan to return cash flows to your investors?
Market size, Cash on hand, Access to capital	Number of users, User intensity (EV/User)	User engagement with model, Revenues (EV/Sales)	Earnings levels and growth (PE, EV/EBIT)	Cash flows, Payout & Debt servicing (PBV, EV/EBITDA)
Mostly or all narrative	More narrative than numbers	Mix of narrative & numbers	More numbers than narrative	Mostly or all numbers
Total market size, Market Share & Target Margin	Revenue Growth (and its drivers)	Revenue Growth & Reinvestment	Operating margins and Return on capital	Dividends/Cash Returns & Debt ratios
Macro delusions, where companies are collectively overpriced, given market size.	Value distractions, with focus on wrong revenue drivers.	Growth illusions, with failure to factor in the cost of growth.	Disruption Denial, with failure to see threats to sustainable profits.	Liquidation leakage, with unrealistic assumptions about what others will pay for liquidated assets.
	Is there a market for the product or service? How big is that market? Will you survive? Market size, Cash on hand, Access to capital Mostly or all narrative Total market size, Market Share & Target Margin Macro delusions, where companies are collectively overpriced, given	Is there a market for the product or service? How big is that market? Will you survive? Market size, Cash on hand, Access to capital Mostly or all narrative Total market size, Market Share & Target Margin Macro delusions, where companies are collectively overpriced, given Do people use your product or service? How much do they like it? Number of users, User intensity (EV/User) More narrative than numbers Revenue Growth (and its drivers)	Is there a market for the product or service? How big is that market? Will you survive? Market size, Cash on hand, Access to capital Mostly or all narrative Total market Share & Target Margin Macro delusions, where companies are collectively overpriced, given Is there a market for the product or service? Can you service? Can you scale up, i.e., grow as you get bigger? Will people pay for the product or service? Can you scale up, i.e., grow as you get bigger? Will people pay for the product or service? Can you scale up, i.e., grow as you get bigger? User engagement with model, Revenues (EV/Sales) Mix of narrative & numbers Revenue Growth (and its drivers) Revenue Growth & Revenue Growth & Reinvestment Macro delusions, with focus on wrong revenue are collectively overpriced, given Mix of narrative & numbers Revenue Growth & Reinvestment Growth illusions, with failure to factor in the cost of growth.	Start-up Young Growth High Growth Mature Stable

Investment Philosophies & Narratives



There is no one pathway to investing nirvana..

- Successful Value investors
 - Work primarily with numbers (financial ratios, pricing metrics)
 - Will tend to invest in mature companies with stable and clear stories
- Successful Growth investors
 - Make their investments primarily based upon stories
 - Will tend to invest in companies with big and expansive stories that pass the plausibility test.
- Both sides will view the other side as deluded, but they will both be better at what they do, if they can work on their weak sides.

The End

"There is no real ending. It's just the place where you stop the story."