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?

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.

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

What is the value of equity in the firm?

Maintaining excess returns or high growth for any length of time is difficult to do for a mature 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 co							\$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 🕢

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%

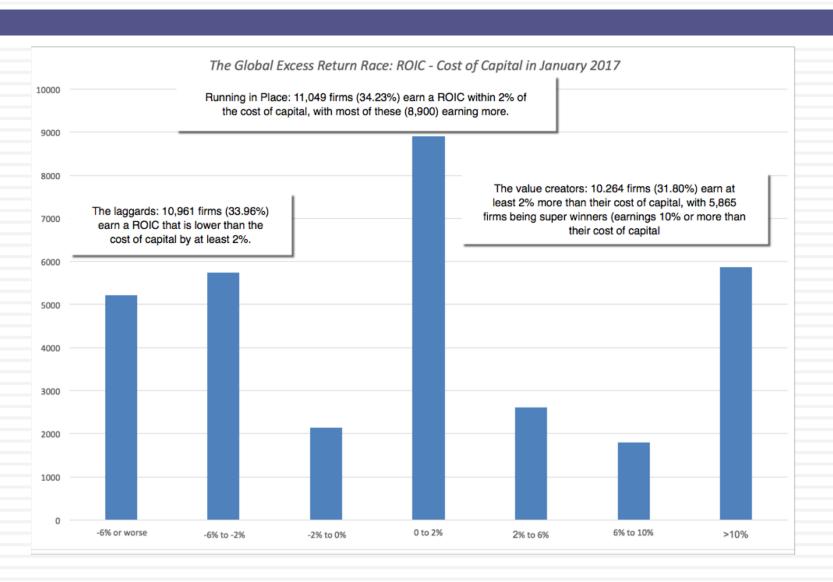
Cost of equity rises but cost of capital drops.

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 a	Value of operating assets							\$5,475	
(Add) Cash								\$155	
(Subtract) Debt								\$491	
(Subtract) Management Options								\$53	
Value of equity in co								\$5,085	
302 lue perAlswath	Damodaran							\$37.80	

Lesson 1: Cost cutting and increased efficiency are easier accomplished on paper than in practice... and require commitment

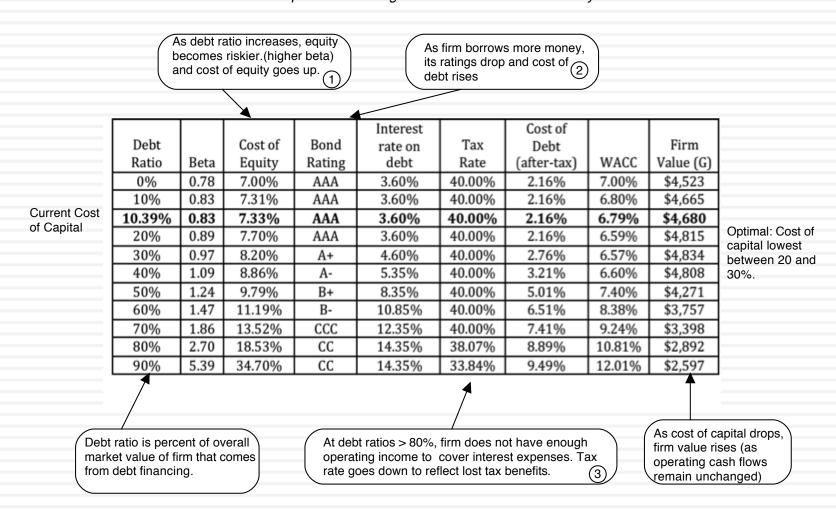


Lesson 2: Increasing growth is not always a value creating option.. And it may destroy value at times..



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.

Figure 14.5: A Valuation of JC Penney

Declining business: Revenues expected to drop by 3% a year fo next 5 years

	Ro	ise year	1 2		3 4		5		6		7		8		9		10					
Revenue growth rate		ise year	-3.00%		-3.00%		-3.00%		-3.00%		-3.00%		-2.00%		-1.00%		0.00%		1.00%		2.00%	
Revenues		12,522	\$12,146		\$11,782		\$11,428		\$11,086		\$10,753		\$10,538		\$10,433		\$10,433		\$10,537		\$10,748	
EBIT (Operating) margin		1.32%	1.32% 1.		2.31%		2.80%		3.29%		3.79%		4.28%		4.77%		5.26%		5.76%		6.25%	
EBIT (Operating income)	\$	166	\$	221	\$	272	\$	320	\$	365	\$	407	\$	451	\$	498	\$	549	\$	607	\$	672
Tax rate	x rate 35.00		35	5.00%	35.00%		35.00%		35.00%		35.00%		36.00%		37.00%		38.00%		39.00%		40.00%	
EBIT(1-t)	\$	108	\$	143	\$	177	\$	208	\$	237	\$	265	\$	289	\$	314	\$	341	\$	370	\$	403
- Reinvestment			\$	(188)	\$	(182)	\$	(177)	\$	(171)	\$	(166)	\$	(108)	\$	(53)	\$	-	\$	52	\$	105
FCFF			\$	331	\$	359	\$	385	\$	409	\$	431	\$	396	\$	366	\$	341	\$	318	\$	298
Cost of capital			9	.00%	9.00%		9.00%		9.00%		9.00%		8.80%		8.60%		8.40%		8.20%		8.00%	
PV(FCFF)			\$	304	\$	302	\$	297	\$	290	\$	280	\$	237	\$	201	\$	173	\$	149	\$	129
Terminal value	\$	5,710																				
PV(Terminal value)	\$	2,479																				
PV (CF over next 10 years)	\$	2,362																				
Sum of PV	\$	4,841																				
Probability of failure =		20.00%		Hiah	del	ot load	l ar	oa br	r e	arnino	ıs	put										
Proceeds if firm fails = \$2,421 survival at risk. Based on bo																						
Value of operating assets = \$4,357 20% chance of failure and liquidation w						n will																
	bring in 50% of book value																					

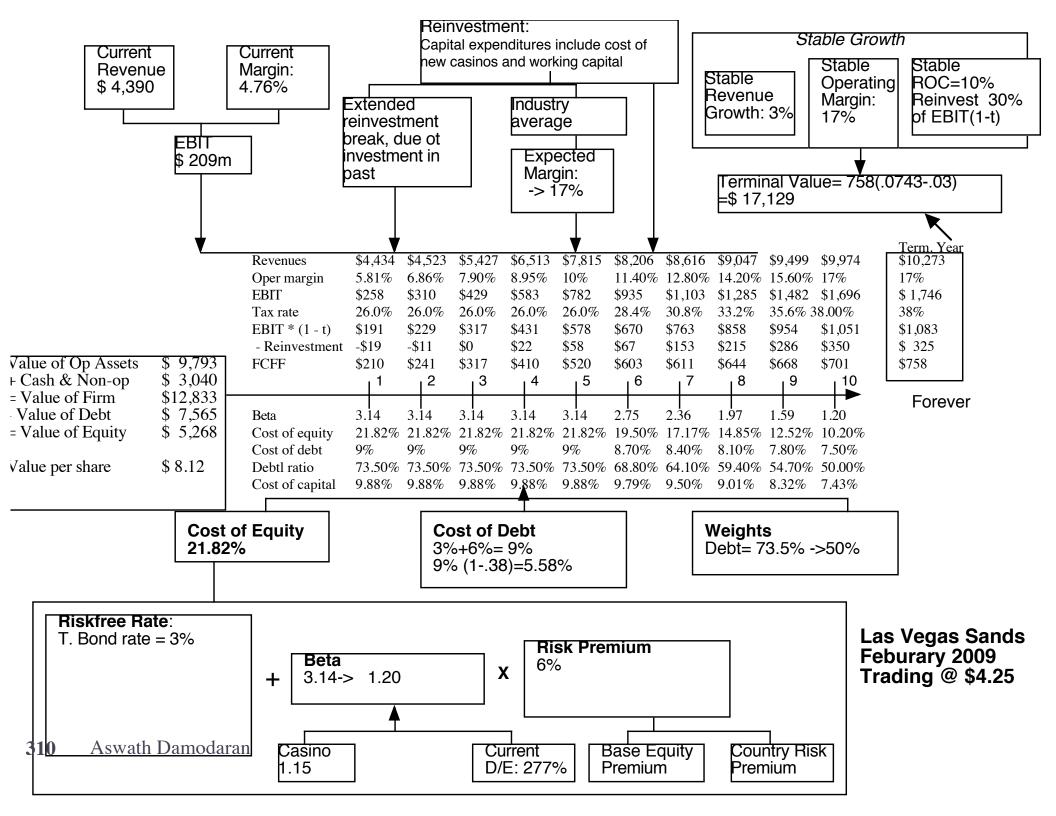
Margins improve gradually to median for US retail sector (6.25%)

As stores shut down, cash released from real estate.

The cost of capital is at 9%, higher because of high cost of debt.

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 overstate 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).



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 $\pi_{istress}$ = 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

IV. Emerging Market Companies

Estimation Issues - Emerging Market Companies

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?

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

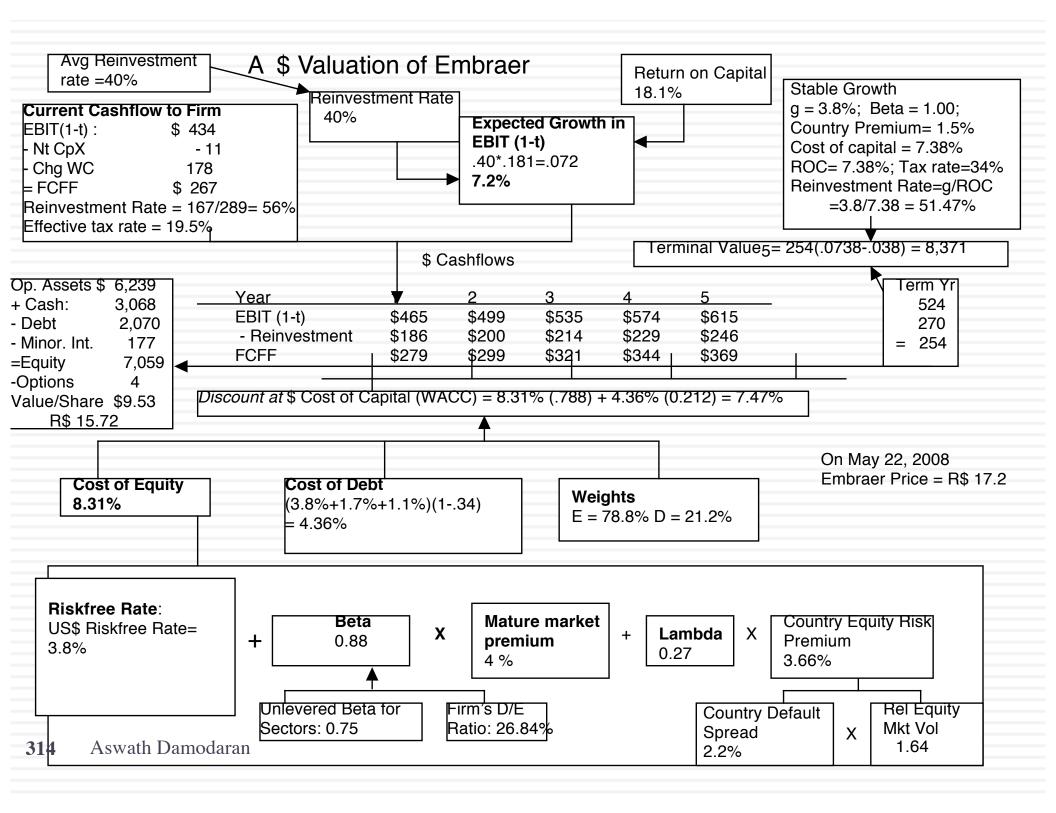
Cross holdings can affect value of equity

What is the value of equity in the firm?

Even if the company's risk is stable, there can be significant changes in country risk over time. Economic crises can put many companies at risk. Government actions (nationalization) can affect long term value.

Lesson 1: Country risk has to be incorporated... but with a scalpel, not a bludgeon

- Emerging market companies are undoubtedly exposed to additional country risk because they are incorporated in countries that are more exposed to political and economic risk.
- Not all emerging market companies are equally exposed to country risk and many developed markets have emerging market risk exposure because of their operations.
- You can use either the "weighted country risk premium", with the weights reflecting the countries you get your revenues from or the lambda approach (which may incorporate more than revenues) to capture country risk exposure.

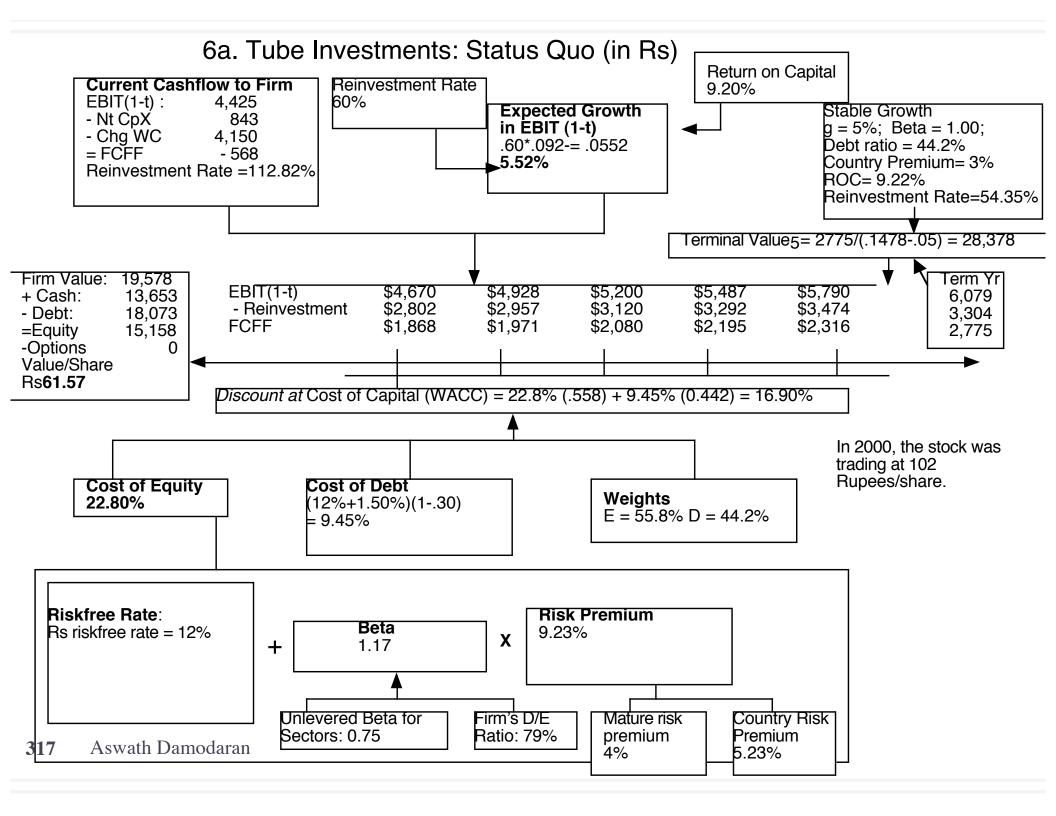


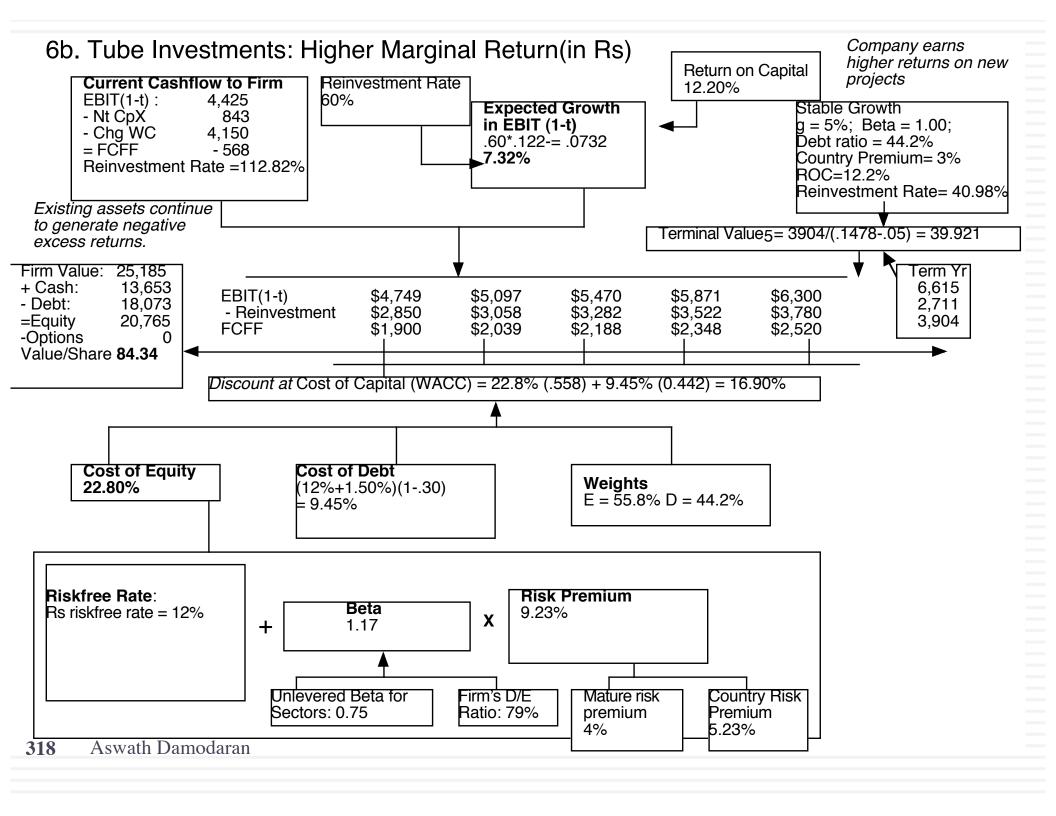
Lesson 2: Currency should not matter

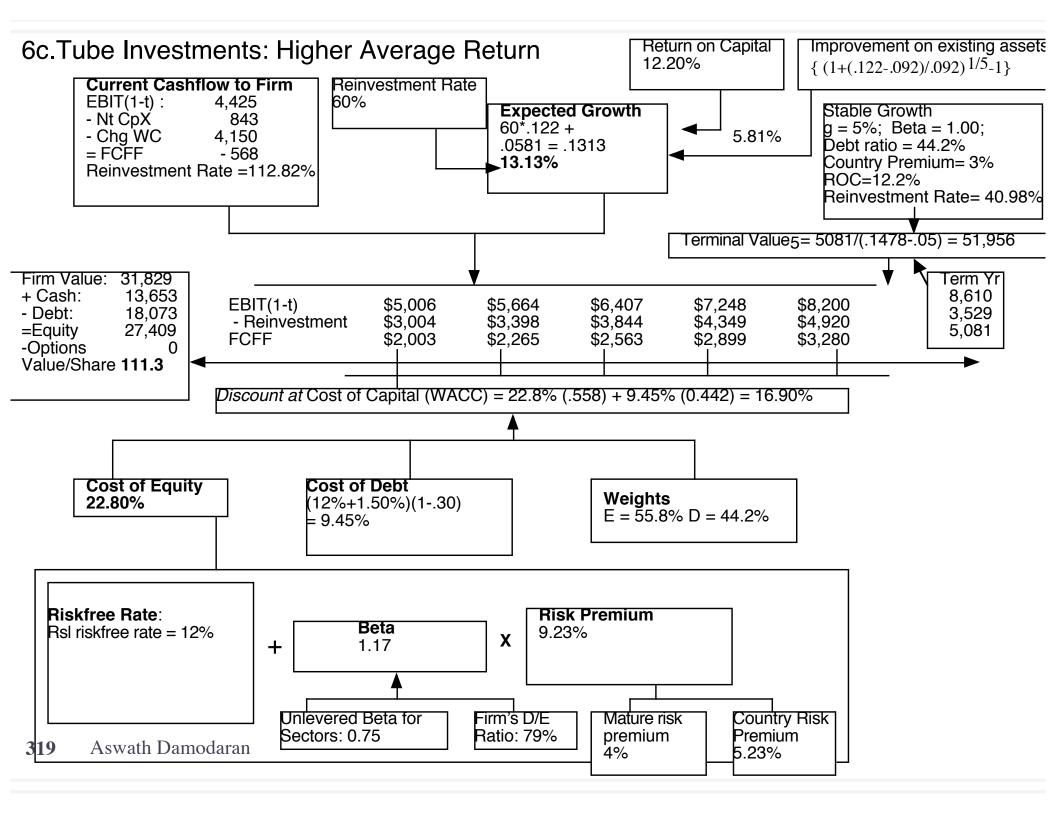
- You can value any company in any currency. Thus, you can value a Brazilian company in nominal reais, US dollars or Swiss Francs.
- For your valuation to stay invariant and consistent, your cash flows and discount rates have to be in the same currency. Thus, if you are using a high inflation currency, both your growth rates and discount rates will be much higher.
- For your cash flows to be consistent, you have to use expected exchange rates that reflect purchasing power parity (the higher inflation currency has to depreciate by the inflation differential each year).

Lesson 3: The "corporate governance" drag

- Stockholders in Asian, Latin American and many European companies have little or no power over the managers of the firm. In many cases, insiders own voting shares and control the firm and the potential for conflict of interests is huge.
- This weak corporate governance is often a reason for given for using higher discount rates or discounting the estimated value for these companies.
- Would you discount the value that you estimate for an emerging market company to allow for this absence of stockholder power?
- a. Yes
- b. No.



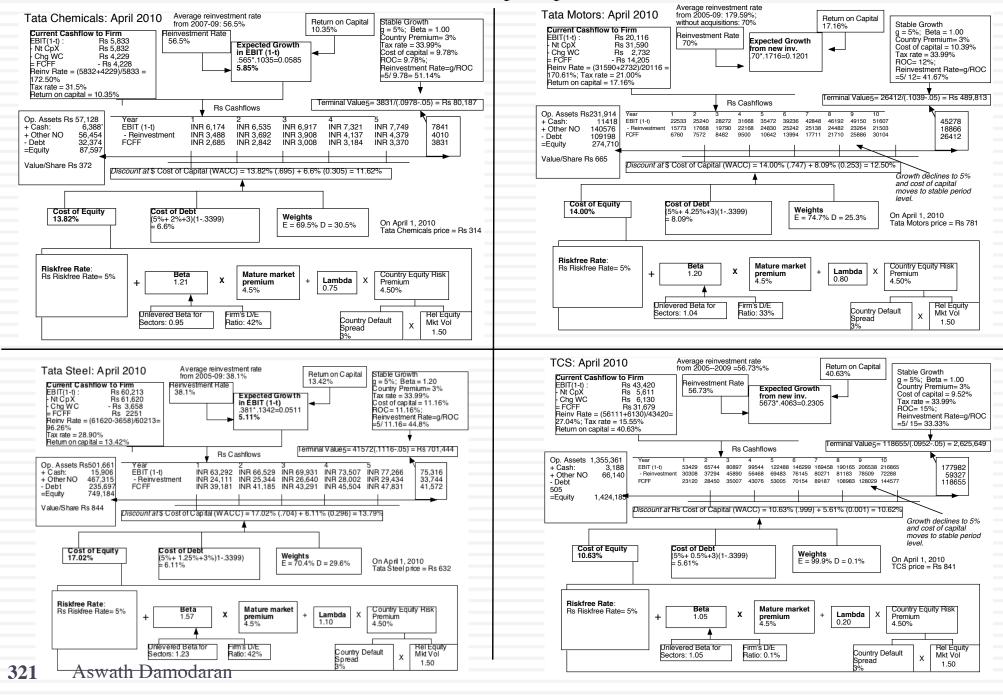




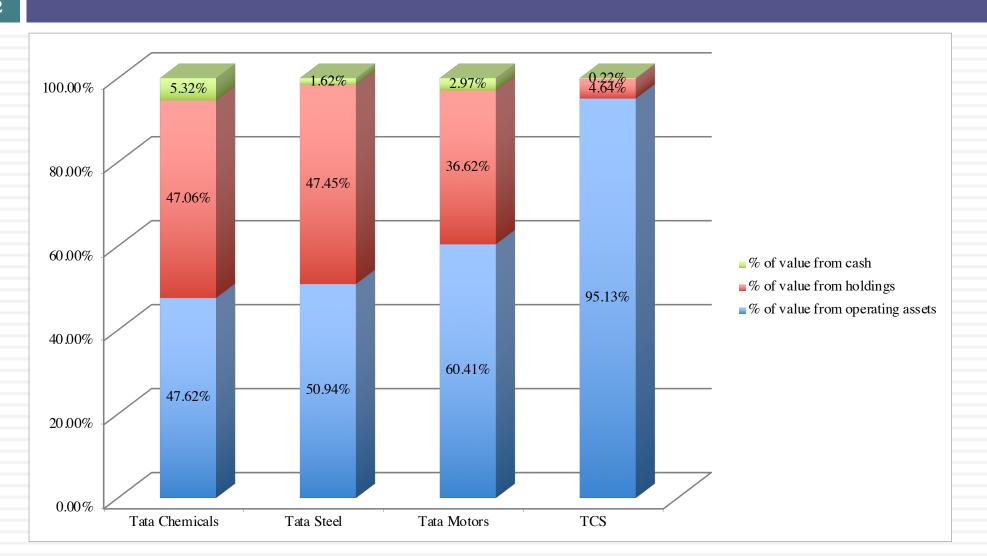
Lesson 4: Watch out for cross holdings...

- Emerging market companies are more prone to having cross holdings that companies in developed markets. This is partially the result of history (since many of the larger public companies used to be family owned businesses until a few decades ago) and partly because those who run these companies value control (and use cross holdings to preserve this control).
- In many emerging market companies, the real process of valuation begins when you have finished your DCF valuation, since the cross holdings (which can be numerous) have to be valued, often with minimal information.

8. The Tata Group – April 2010



Tata Companies: Value Breakdown



Lesson 5: Truncation risk can come in many forms...

- Natural disasters: Small companies in some economies are much exposed to natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes), without the means to hedge against that risk (with insurance or derivative products).
- Terrorism risk: Companies in some countries that are unstable or in the grips of civil war are exposed to damage or destruction.
- Nationalization risk: While less common than it used to be, there are countries where businesses may be nationalized, with owners receiving less than fair value as compensation.

V. Valuing Financial Service Companies

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?

Preferred stock is a significant source of capital.

What is the value of equity in the firm?

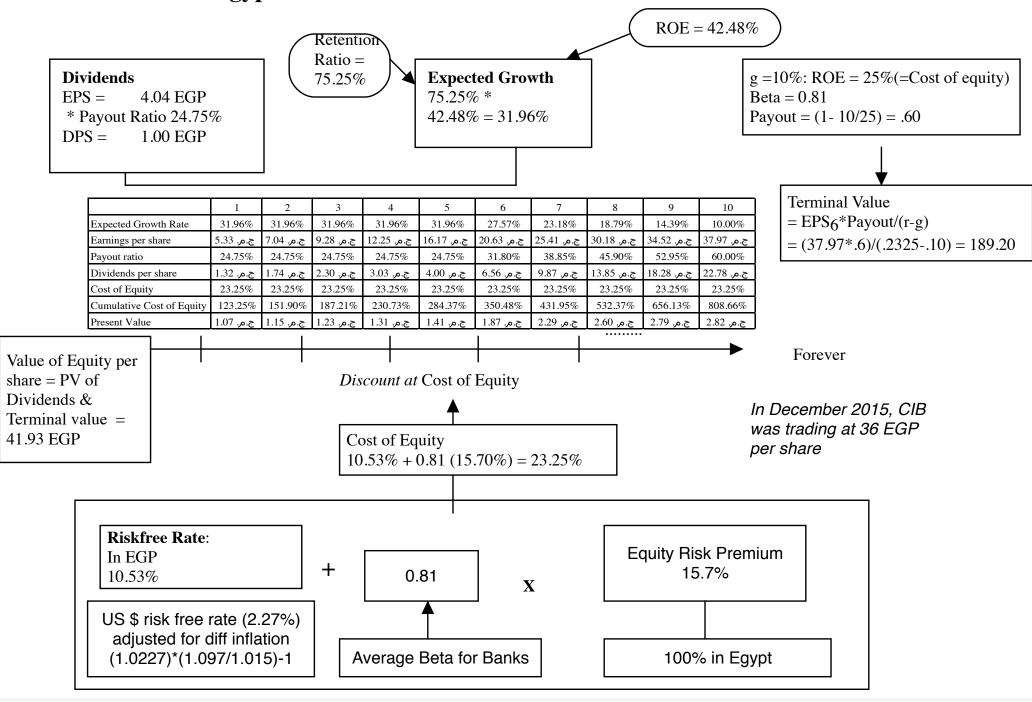
How risky are the cash flows from both existing assets and growth assets?

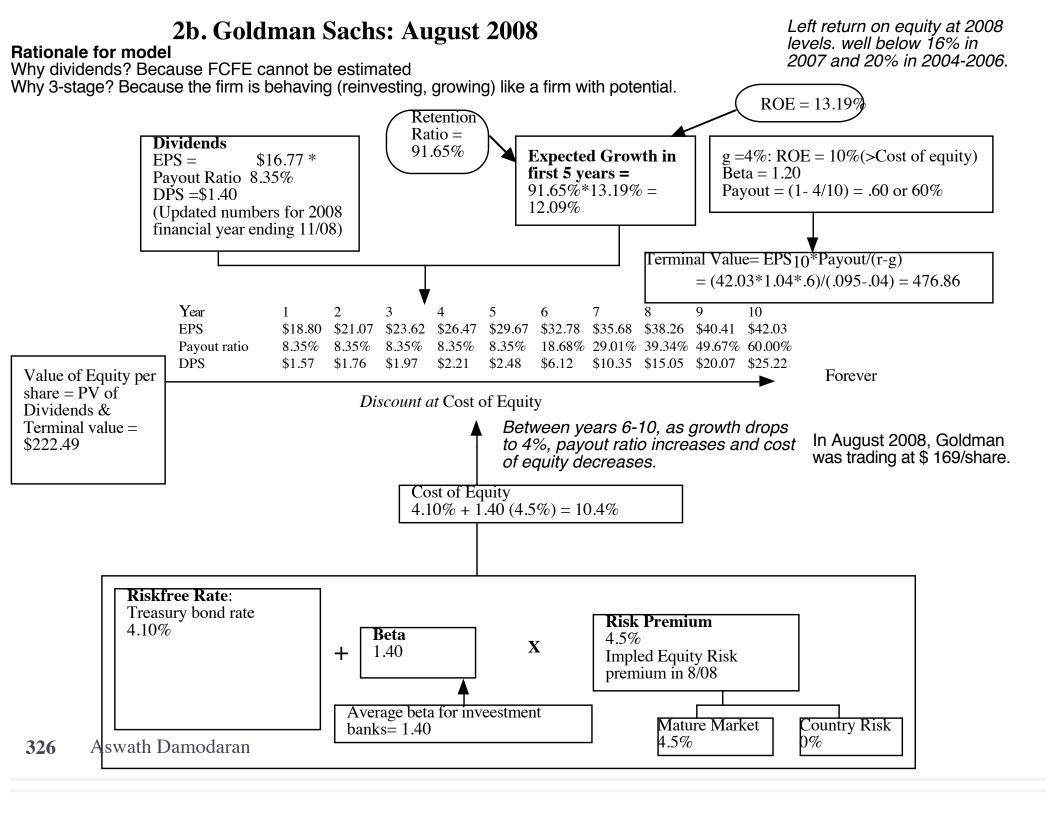
For financial service firms, debt is raw material rather than a source of capital. It is not only tough to define but if defined broadly can result in high financial leverage, magnifying the impact of small operating risk changes on equity risk.

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

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.

CIB Egypt in December 2015 Valuation in Egyptian Pounds





Lesson 1: Financial service companies are opaque...

- 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.
- During times of crises or when you don't trust banks to pay out what they can afford to in dividends, using the dividend discount model may not give you a "reliable" value.

2c. Wells Fargo: Valuation on October 7, 2008

Rationale for model

Why dividends? Because FCFE cannot be estimated

regulatory concerns. (.1756/1.3 = .135)Why 2-stage? Because the expected growth rate in near term is higher than stable growth rate. ROE = 13.5%Retention Ratio = 45.37% Return on **Dividends (Trailing 12 Expected Growth** g = 3%: ROE = 7.6%(=Cost of equity) 45.37% * equity: 17.56% months) Beta = 1.00: ERP = 4%EPS =\$2.16 * 13.5% = 6.13%Payout = (1-3/7.6) = .60.55%Payout Ratio 54.63% DPS =\$1.18 Terminal Value= EPS6*Payout/(r-g) = (\$3.00*.6055)/(.076-.03) = \$39.41**EPS** \$ 2.29 \$2.43 \$2.58 \$2.74 \$2.91 \$1.25 \$1.33 \$1.59 DPS \$1.41 \$1.50 Value of Equity per Forever share = PV ofDiscount at Cost of Equity Dividends & Terminal value at In October 2008, Wells 9.6% = \$30.29Fargo was trading at \$33 per share Cost of Equity 3.60% + 1.20(5%) = 9.60%Riskfree Rate: Long term treasury bond Risk Premium rate Beta 5% 3.60% X 1.20 Updated in October 2008 Average beta for US Banks over Mature Market Country Risk last year: 1.20 Aswath Damodaran 328 5% 0%

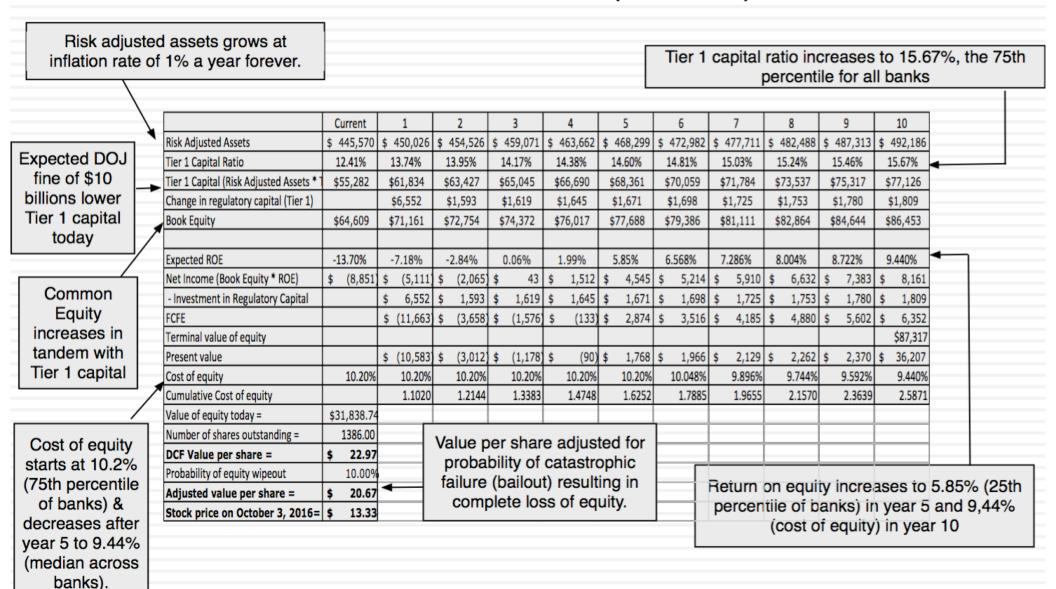
Assuming that Wells will have to increase its

capital base by about 30% to reflect tighter

Lesson 2: For financial service companies, book value matters...

- 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)

Deutsche Bank: A Crisis Valuation (October 2016)



Aswath Damodaran