## Valuation Inferno: Dante meets DCF...

"Abandon every hope, ye who enter here"
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## DCF Choices: Equity versus Firm

Firm Valuation: Value the entire business
by discounting ash flow to the firm at cost of capital


Equity valuation: Value just the equity claim in the business by discounting cash flows to equity at the cost of equity

## The Value of a business rests on..

## DISCOUNTED CASHFLOW VALUATION



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Discount Rate
Firm:Cost of Capital
Equity: Cost of Equity
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## The nine circles of valuation hell.. With a special bonus circle...



## Illustration 1: Base Year Fixation..

- You are valuing Exxon Mobil, using the financial statements of the firm from 2005. The following provides the key numbers:

| Revenues | $\$ 320$ billion |
| :--- | :--- |
| EBIT $(1-\mathrm{t})$ | $\$ 40$ billion |
| Net Cap Ex | $\$ 3$ billion |
| Chg WC | $\$ 1$ billion |

- The cost of capital for the firm is $8 \%$ and you use a very conservative stable growth rate of $2 \%$ to value the firm. Even without working through the numbers, which of the following conclusions are you most likely to draw at the end of your valuation?
- The value will be greater than the price
- The value will be less than the price
- Tough to tell without working through the numbers


## Lesson 1.1: Normalizing Earnings <br> An Example



## Lesson 1.2: And don't let accounting categorization trap you...

| Valuation Input | Accounting Definition | Valuation Definition |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Capital Expenditures | Internal investments in tangible <br> assets | Investment in long term assets. Will <br> include <br> a. R\&D expenses for tech firms <br> b. Acquisitions of other firms (cash <br> as well as stock) <br> c. Increases in operating lease <br> commitments |
| Depreciation and <br> Amortization | Follows accounting rules on <br> depreciation and amortization | Tax-deductible depreciation in tax <br> books (not reporting books) |
| Working Capital | Current assets - Current liabilities | Non-cash Current Assets - Non- <br> debt current liabilities |

## Illustration 2: Taxes and Value

- Assume that you have been asked to value a company and have been provided with the most recent year's financial statements:
EBITDA
140
- DA 40
EBIT ..... 100
- Interest exp ..... 20
Taxable income ..... 80
Taxes ..... 32
Net Income ..... 48

Assume also that cash flows will be constant and that there is no growth in perpetuity. What is the free cash flow to the firm?

## Lesson 2.1: Don't double count the tax benefit

- Taxes paid: When computing the after-tax operating income, using taxes paid (24) will give you a higher cash flow but will result in double counting the tax benefit - once in the cash flow and again in the cost of capital (when you use the after-tax cost of debt)
- Cap Ex:Though nothing is mentioned about cap ex, the fact that these earnings can be maintained in perpetuity requires us to be consistent in our reinvestment assumptions. If you do not set cap ex = depreciation, the assets of the firm will deplete over time to zero but earnings will continue at current levels.
Ignoring a relevant variable, because you are not given the facts or feel uncertain about it, is just as much an assumption (and often less defensible and more dangerous) than making an explicit assumption.


## Lesson 2.2: Effective versus Marginal tax rates

- In computing the after-tax operating income, which of the following tax rates should you use in the computation?
- The effective tax rate
- The marginal tax rate of the country in which the company is incorporated
- The weighted average marginal tax rate across the countries in which the company operates
- None of the above

Why?

## Illustration 3: High Growth for how long...

Assume that you are valuing a young, high growth firm with great potential, just after its initial public offering. How long would you set your high growth period?

- < 5 years
- 5 years
- 10 years
- >10 years

What high growth period would you use for a larger firm with a proven track record of delivering growth in the past?

- 5 years
- 10 years
- 15 years
- Longer


## Lesson 3.1: Maintaining high growth is difficult...

- While analysts routinely assume very long high growth periods (with substantial excess returns during the periods), the evidence suggests that they are much too optimistic. A study of revenue growth at firms that make IPOs in the years after the IPO shows the following:

Typically, the revenue growth rate of a newly public
company outpaces its industry average for only about
five years.
$\begin{aligned} & \text { Margin by } \\ & \text { which } \\ & \text { revenue } \\ & \text { growth rate } \\ & \text { exceeds } \\ & \text { industry } \\ & \text { average }\end{aligned}$

## Lesson 3.2: Scaling up growth is hard to do..



Revenues $\square$ Operating Income Net Income $\square$ EPS

## Illustration 4: Regression betas and Debt Cost

- The cost of capital for a firm has been computed using the following inputs:
- The cost of equity was estimated from a Bloomberg "adjusted" beta of 1.2 , a "normal" treasury bond rate (estimated by your economists who feel that interest rates will increase over the next year to 5\%) and the Ibbotson Equity Risk Premium of 6\%

Cost of equity $=$ Normalized Bond rate + Beta $*$ Risk Premium

$$
=5 \%+1.2(6 \%)=12.2 \%
$$

- The cost of debt was computed by dividing the interest expenses by the book value of debt (a book interest rate); the effective tax rate for the firm is $30 \%$.
- Cost of debt $=$ Interest expenses/ Book Debt $=240 / 6000=4 \%$
- After-tax cost of debt $=$ Cost of debt $(1-$ Effective tax rate $)=4 \%(1-.3)=2.8 \%$
- The cost of capital was computed using the market value of equity (10000) and the book value of all liabilities (10000)

Cost of capital $=12.2 \%(.5)+2.8 \%(.5)=7.5 \%$
■ Do you agree with the computation?

## 4.1: Betas don’t come from regressions..



## But from a firm's business mix as well as operating and financing choices...

- Approach 1: Based on business mix
- SAP is in three business: software, consulting and training. We will aggregate the consulting and training businesses

| Business | Revenues | EV/Sales | Value | Weights | Beta |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| Software $€ 5.3$ | 3.25 | 17.23 | $80 \%$ | 1.30 |  |
| Consulting $€ 2.2$ | 2.00 | 4.40 | $20 \%$ | 1.05 |  |
| SAP | $\in 7.5$ |  | $\mathbf{2 1 . 6 3}$ |  | $\mathbf{1 . 2 5}$ |

■ Approach 2: Customer Base


## 4.2: Don't let your macro views color your valuation

- If you believe that interest rates will go up (down), that exchange rates will move adversely (in your favor) and that the economy will weaken (strengthen), should you try to bring them into your individual company valuations?
- Yes
- No

■ If you do, and you conclude that a stock is overvalued (undervalued), how should I read this conclusion?

## 4.3: Equity risk premiums matter..



## 4.4: The Cost of Debt

- The cost of debt is the rate at which a firm can borrow money, long term and today, corrected for the tax benefits of debt.
- Take all debt, short term as well as long term, and attach one long term cost of debt to it.
- That long term cost of debt will be based upon the level of riskless rates today and the default risk of the company today (based on either an actual or a synthetic rating).
- Interest saves you taxes at the margin. Consequently, the marginal tax rate should be used to compute the tax benefit.
■ As a general rule, it is dangerous to start breaking debt down into individual pieces (senior, subordinated, unsecured...) and attaching different costs to each one.


## 4.5: Be "currency" and "risk" consistent

- Assume that the company you are analyzing is a German firm (with primarily German operations) and that you are doing the analysis in U.S. dollars. How would your inputs have been different?
- Riskfree Rate
- Beta
- Risk Premium

■ What if your analysis had been in Euros?

■ What if you were now told that half of the German firm's operations are in China?

## Illustration 5: The price of growth..

- You are looking at a valuation of a firm and see the following projected cash flows:

| Year | Current | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Growth rate |  | $10 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
| Revenues | $\$ 100.00$ | $\$ 110.00$ | $\$ 121.00$ | $\$ 133.10$ | $\$ 146.41$ |
| EBIT $(1-\mathrm{t})$ | $\$ 30.00$ | $\$ 33.00$ | $\$ 36.30$ | $\$ 39.93$ | $\$ 43.92$ |
| + Depreciatio | $\$ 15.00$ | $\$ 16.50$ | $\$ 18.15$ | $\$ 19.97$ | $\$ 21.96$ |
| - Cap Ex | $\$ 18.00$ | $\$ 19.80$ | $\$ 21.78$ | $\$ 23.96$ | $\$ 26.35$ |
| - Chg in WC | $\$ 3.00$ | $\$ 3.30$ | $\$ 3.63$ | $\$ 3.99$ | $\$ 4.39$ |
| FCFF | $\$ 24.00$ | $\$ 26.40$ | $\$ 29.04$ | $\$ 31.94$ | $\$ 35.14$ |

What questions would you raise about the forecasts?

## 5.1: The Determinants of Growth

|  | Firm 1 | Firm 2 | Firm 3 | Firm 4 | Firm 5 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reinvestment Rate | $20.00 \%$ | $100.00 \%$ | $200.00 \%$ | $20.00 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ |
| ROIC on new investment | $50.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ | $5.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ROIC on existing investments before | $10.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ |
| ROIC on existing investments after | $10.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ | $10.00 \%$ | $10.80 \%$ | $11.00 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expected growth rate | $\mathbf{1 0 . 0 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 . 0 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 . 0 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 . 0 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 . 0 0 \%}$ |

Expected growth $=$ Growth from new investments + Efficiency growth

$$
=\text { Reinv Rate } * \text { ROC } \quad+\left(\mathrm{ROC}_{\mathrm{t}}-\mathrm{ROC}_{\mathrm{t}-1}\right) / \mathrm{ROC}_{\mathrm{t}-1}
$$

## 5.2: The Revenue/Margin Trap Sirius Radio: Revenues and Margins..

| Year | Revenue <br> Growth rate | Revenues | Operating <br> Margin | Operating Income |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Current |  | $\mathbf{\$ 1 8 7}$ | $\mathbf{- 4 1 9 . 9 2 \%}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 7 8 7}$ |  |  |
| 1 | $200.00 \%$ | $\$ 562$ | $-199.96 \%$ | $-\$ 1,125$ |  |  |
| 2 | $100.00 \%$ | $\$ 1,125$ | $-89.98 \%$ | $-\$ 1,012$ |  |  |
| 3 | $80.00 \%$ | $\$ 2,025$ | $-34.99 \%$ | $-\$ 708$ |  |  |
| 4 | $60.00 \%$ | $\$ 3,239$ | $-7.50 \%$ | $-\$ 243$ |  |  |
| 5 | $40.00 \%$ | $\$ 4,535$ | $6.25 \%$ | $\$ 284$ |  |  |
| 6 | $25.00 \%$ | $\$ 5,669$ | $13.13 \%$ | $\$ 744$ |  |  |
| 7 | $20.00 \%$ | $\$ 6,803$ | $16.56 \%$ | $\$ 1,127$ |  |  |
| 8 | $15.00 \%$ | $\$ 7,823$ | $18.28 \%$ | $\$ 1,430$ |  |  |
| 9 | $10.00 \%$ | $\$ 8,605$ | $19.14 \%$ | $\$ 1,647$ |  |  |
| 10 | $5.00 \%$ | $\$ 9,035$ | $19.57 \%$ | $\$ 1,768$ |  |  |
|  |  | Target margin based upon |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Clear Channel |  |  |  |  |
| Aswath Damodaran |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## And one way to avoid it..

| Year | Revenues | Change in revenue | Sales/Capital Ratio | Reinvestment | Capital Invested | Operating Income (Loss) | Imputed ROC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current | \$187 |  |  |  | \$ 1,657 | -\$787 |  |
| 1 | \$562 | \$375 | 1.50 | \$250 | 1,907 | -\$1,125 | -67.87\% |
| 2 | \$1,125 | \$562 | 1.50 | \$375 | 2,282 | -\$1,012 | -53.08\% |
| 3 | \$2,025 | \$900 | 1.50 | \$600 | 2,882 | -\$708 | -31.05\% |
| 4 | \$3,239 | \$1,215 | 1.50 | \$810 | 3,691 | -\$243 | -8.43\% |
| 5 | \$4,535 | \$1,296 | 1.50 | \$864 | 4,555 | \$284 | 7.68\% |
| 6 | \$5,669 | \$1,134 | 1.50 | \$756 | 5,311 | \$744 | 16.33\% |
| 7 | \$6,803 | \$1,134 | 1.50 | \$756 | 6,067 | \$1,127 | 21.21\% |
| 8 | \$7,823 | \$1,020 | 1.50 | \$680 | 6,747 | \$1,430 | 23.57\% |
| 9 | \$8,605 | \$782 | 1.50 | \$522 | \$ 7,269 | \$1,647 | 17.56\% |
| 10 | \$9,035 | \$430 | 1.50 | \$287 | 7,556 | \$1,768 | 15.81\% |
|  | eck reve <br> ainst tota <br> arket pot d largest | nues <br> al <br> tential <br> firms |  |  | Capital in Capital in Reinvestn | vested in year $\mathrm{t}+1=$ vested in year $\mathrm{t}+$ ment in year $\mathrm{t}+1$ | Is ending ROC a reasonable number? |

## Illustration 6: The "fixed debt ratio" assumption

- You have been asked to value a company that currently has the following cost of capital:
Cost of capital $=10 \%(.9)+4 \%(.1)=9.4 \%$
a. You believe that the target debt ratio for this firm should be $30 \%$. What will the cost of capital be at the target debt ratio?
b. Which debt ratio (and cost of capital) should you use in valuing this company?


## 6.1: Cost of Capital and Debt Ratios SAP in 2005

| Debt Ratio | Beta | Cost of Equity | Bond Rating | Interest rate on debt | Tax Rate | Cost of Debt (after-tax) | WACC | Firm Value (G) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $0 \%$ | 1.25 | $8.72 \%$ | AAA | $3.76 \%$ | $36.54 \%$ | $2.39 \%$ | $8.72 \%$ | $\$ 39,088$ |
| $10 \%$ | 1.34 | $9.09 \%$ | AAA | $3.76 \%$ | $36.54 \%$ | $2.39 \%$ | $8.42 \%$ | $\$ 41,480$ |
| $20 \%$ | 1.45 | $9.56 \%$ | A | $4.26 \%$ | $36.54 \%$ | $2.70 \%$ | $8.19 \%$ | $\$ 43,567$ |
| $30 \%$ | 1.59 | $10.16 \%$ | A- | $4.41 \%$ | $36.54 \%$ | $2.80 \%$ | $7.95 \%$ | $\$ 45,900$ |
| $40 \%$ | 1.78 | $10.96 \%$ | CCC | $11.41 \%$ | $36.54 \%$ | $7.24 \%$ | $9.47 \%$ | $\$ 34,043$ |
| $50 \%$ | 2.22 | $12.85 \%$ | C | $15.41 \%$ | $22.08 \%$ | $12.01 \%$ | $12.43 \%$ | $\$ 22,444$ |
| $60 \%$ | 2.78 | $15.21 \%$ | C | $15.41 \%$ | $18.40 \%$ | $12.58 \%$ | $13.63 \%$ | $\$ 19,650$ |
| $70 \%$ | 3.70 | $19.15 \%$ | C | $15.41 \%$ | $15.77 \%$ | $12.98 \%$ | $14.83 \%$ | $\$ 17,444$ |
| $80 \%$ | 5.55 | $27.01 \%$ | C | $15.41 \%$ | $13.80 \%$ | $13.28 \%$ | $16.03 \%$ | $\$ 15,658$ |
| $90 \%$ | 11.11 | $50.62 \%$ | C | $15.41 \%$ | $12.26 \%$ | $13.52 \%$ | $17.23 \%$ | $\$ 14,181$ |

## 6.2: Changing Debt Ratios and Costs of Capital over time - Sirius

| Year | Beta | Cost of Equity | Cost of Debt | Tax Rate | After-tax cost of debt | Debt Ratio | Cost of Capital |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current | 1.80 | $11.70 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $6.23 \%$ | $11.44 \%$ |
| 1 | 1.80 | $11.70 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $6.23 \%$ | $11.44 \%$ |
| 2 | 1.80 | $11.70 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $6.23 \%$ | $11.44 \%$ |
| 3 | 1.80 | $11.70 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $6.23 \%$ | $11.44 \%$ |
| 4 | 1.80 | $11.70 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $6.23 \%$ | $11.44 \%$ |
| 5 | 1.80 | $11.70 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $7.50 \%$ | $6.23 \%$ | $11.44 \%$ |
| 6 | 1.64 | $11.06 \%$ | $7.00 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $7.00 \%$ | $9.99 \%$ | $10.65 \%$ |
| 7 | 1.48 | $10.42 \%$ | $6.88 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $6.88 \%$ | $13.74 \%$ | $9.93 \%$ |
| 8 | 1.32 | $9.78 \%$ | $6.67 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ | $6.67 \%$ | $17.49 \%$ | $9.24 \%$ |
| 9 | 1.16 | $9.14 \%$ | $6.25 \%$ | $28.05 \%$ | $4.50 \%$ | $21.25 \%$ | $8.15 \%$ |
| 10 | 1.00 | $8.50 \%$ | $5.00 \%$ | $35.00 \%$ | $3.25 \%$ | $25.00 \%$ | $7.19 \%$ |

## Illustration 7: The Terminal Value

- The best way to compute terminal value is to
- Use a stable growth model and assume cash flows grow at a fixed rate forever
- Use a multiple of EBITDA or revenues in the terminal year
- Use the estimated liquidation value of the assets

You have been asked to value a business. The business expects to $\$ 120$ million in after-tax earnings (and cash flow) next year and to continue generating these earnings in perpetuity. The firm is all equity funded and the cost of equity is $10 \%$; the riskfree rate is $4 \%$ and the ERP is $5 \%$. What is the value of the business?

## 7.1: Limits to stable growth..

- Assume now that you were told that the firm can grow earnings at $2 \%$ a year forever. Estimate the value of the business.
- Now what if you were told that the firm can grow its earnings at $4 \%$ a year forever?

■ What if the growth rate were $6 \%$ a year forever?

## 7.2: And reinvestment to go with growth...

- To grow, a company has to reinvest. How much it will have to reinvest depends in large part on how fast it wants to grow and what type of return it expects to earn on the reinvestment.
- Reinvestment rate $=$ Growth Rate/ Return on Capital
- Assume in the previous example that you were told that the return on capital was $10 \%$. Estimate the reinvestment rate and the value of the business (with a $2 \%$ growth rate).

■ What about with a $4 \%$ growth rate?

## 7.3: Terminal Value and "involuntary" reinvestment assumptions

- An analyst has estimated three years of free cash flows to the firm (with earnings growing $10 \%$ a year) and a terminal value at the end of three years (using a cost of capital):

| Year | Current | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Growth rate |  | $10 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
| Revenues | $\$ 100.00$ | $\$ 110.00$ | $\$ 121.00$ | $\$ 133.10$ |
| EBIT $(1-\mathrm{t})$ | $\$ 30.00$ | $\$ 33.00$ | $\$ 36.30$ | $\$ 39.93$ |
| - Net Cap Ex | $\$ 12.00$ | $\$ 13.20$ | $\$ 14.52$ | $\$ 15.97$ |
| - Chg in WC | $\$ 3.00$ | $\$ 3.30$ | $\$ 3.63$ | $\$ 3.99$ |
| FCFF | $\$ 15.00$ | $\$ 16.50$ | $\$ 18.15$ | $\$ 19.97$ |

Terminal value at end of year $3=19.97 /(.10-.03)=\$ 285$
Value today $=16.5 / 1.1+18.15 / 1.1^{\wedge} 2+(19.97+285) / 1.1^{\wedge} 3=\$ 259$
■ He is puzzled about why the value that he is getting for the company is so low (since he feels he is being realistic about his cash flow estimates, and is confident about his growth rate and cost of capital calculations)

## 8. From firm value to equity value: The Garnishing Effect...

- For a firm with consolidated financial statements, you have discounted free cashflows to the firm at the cost of capital to arrive at a firm value of \$ 100 million. The firm has
- A cash balance of $\$ 15$ million
- Debt outstanding of $\$ 20$ million
- A 5\% holding in another company: the book value of this holding is $\$ 5$ million. (Market value of equity in this company is $\$ 200$ million)
- Minority interests of $\$ 10$ million on the balance sheet
- What is the value of equity in this firm?
- How would your answer change if you knew that the firm was the target of a lawsuit it is likely to win but where the potential payout could be $\$ 100$ million if it loses?


## 8.1: A discount for cash...

- The cash is invested in treasury bills, earning 3\% a year. The cost of capital for the firm is $8 \%$ and its return on capital is $10 \%$. An argument has been made that cash is a sub-optimal investment for the firm and should be discounted. Do you agree?
- Yes
- No

■ If yes, what are the logical implications of firms paying dividends or buying back stock?

- If no, are there circumstances under which you would discount cash? How about attaching a premium?


## Cash: Differences across companies



## 8.2: Valuing Cross Holdings

- 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.
- With limited on unreliable information, you can try one of these approximations:
- 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.


## 8.3: Be expansive in your definition of debt

- In addition to counting all of the debt that you consider in computing cost of capital, you should consider the following:
- If you have under funded pension fund or health care plans, you should consider the under funding at this stage in getting to the value of equity.
- If you do so, you should not double count by also including a cash flow line item reflecting cash you would need to set aside to meet the unfunded obligation.
- You should not be counting these items as debt in your cost of capital calculations....
- If you have contingent liabilities - for example, a potential liability from a lawsuit that has not been decided - you should consider the expected value of these contingent liabilities
- Value of contingent liability = Probability that the liability will occur * Expected value of liability


## 9. From equity value to equity value per share

- You have valued the equity in a firm at $\$ 200$ million. Estimate the value of equity per share if there are 10 million shares outstanding..
- How would your answer change if you were told that there are 2 million employee options outstanding, with a strike price of \$ 20 a share and 5 years left to expiration?


## Value per share... as a function of stock price volatility and option maturity



## 10. The final circle of hell...



## Some closing thoughts on valuation...

- View "paradigm shifts" with skepticism.
- Focus on the big picture; don't let the details trip you up.
- Keep your perspective; it is only a valuation.
- If you have to choose between valuation skills and luck....

