# Chapter 10:

## BASIC MICRO-LEVEL VALUATION: "DCF" & "NPV"

THE *famous* DCF VALUATION PROCEDURE...

- 1. FORECAST THE EXPECTED FUTURE CASH FLOWS;
- 2. ASCERTAIN THE REQUIRED TOTAL RETURN;
- 3. DISCOUNT THE CASH FLOWS TO PRESENT VALUE AT THE REQUIRED RATE OF RETURN.

THE VALUE YOU GET TELLS YOU WHAT YOU MUST PAY SO THAT YOUR EXPECTED RETURN WILL EQUAL THE "REQUIRED RETURN" AT WHICH YOU DISCOUNTED THE EXPECTED CASH FLOWS.

$$V_{0} = \frac{E_{0}[CF_{1}]}{1 + E_{0}[r]} + \frac{E_{0}[CF_{2}]}{\left(1 + E_{0}[r]\right)^{2}} + \Lambda + \frac{E_{0}[CF_{T-1}]}{\left(1 + E_{0}[r]\right)^{T-1}} + \frac{E_{0}[CF_{T}]}{\left(1 + E_{0}[r]\right)^{T}}$$

where:

 $CF_t$  = Net cash flow generated by the property in period "t";

 $V_t$  = Property value at the end of period "t";

 $E_0[r]$  = Expected average multi-period return (per period) as of time "zero" (the present), also known as the "goingin IRR";

 $T = The terminal period in the expected investment holding period, such that <math>CF_T$  would include the re-sale value of the property at that time  $(V_T)$ , in addition to normal operating cash flow.

#### Numerical example...

Lease:								
Year:	CF:							
2001	\$1,000,000							
2002	\$1,000,000							
2003	\$1,000,000							
2004	\$1,500,000							
2005	\$1,500,000							
2006	\$1.500.000							

- Single-tenant office bldg
- 6-year "net" lease with a "step-up"...
- *Expected sale price year 6 = \$15,000,000*
- Required rate of return ("going-in IRR") = 10%...
- DCF valuation of property is \$13,757,000:

 $13,757,000 = \frac{1,000,000}{(1.10)} + \frac{1,000,000}{(1.10)^2} + \frac{1,000,000}{(1.10)^3} + \frac{1,500,000}{(1.10)^4} + \frac{1,500,000}{(1.10)^5} + \frac{16,500,000}{(1.10)^6}$ 

## Why is the DCF procedure *important*?

- 1. Recognizes asset valuation *fundamentally depends* upon future net *cash flow generation potential* of the asset.
- 2. Takes *long-term* perspective appropriate for investment decision-making in illiquid markets (multi-period, typically 10 yrs in R.E. applications).
- 3. Takes the *total return* perspective necessary for successful investment.
- 4. Due to the above, the *exercise* of going through the DCF procedure, *if taken seriously*, can help to protect the investor from being swept up by an asset market "*bubble*" (either a positive or negative bubble when asset prices are not related to cash flow generation potential).

#### Remember:

# Investment returns are *inversely related* to the price paid going in for the asset.

e.g., in the previous example, if we could get the asset for \$13,000,000 (instead of \$13,757,000), then our going-in return would be 11.24% (instead of 10.00%):

$$13,000,000 = \frac{1,000,000}{(1.1124)} + \frac{1,000,000}{(1.1124)^2} + \frac{1,000,000}{(1.1124)^3} + \frac{1,500,000}{(1.1124)^4} + \frac{1,500,000}{(1.1124)^5} + \frac{16,500,000}{(1.1124)^6}$$
$$VS.$$
$$13,757,000 = \frac{1,000,000}{(1.10)} + \frac{1,000,000}{(1.10)^2} + \frac{1,000,000}{(1.10)^3} + \frac{1,500,000}{(1.10)^4} + \frac{1,500,000}{(1.10)^5} + \frac{16,500,000}{(1.10)^6}$$

What is the fundamental economic reason for this inverserelationship?[Hint: What determines fut. CFs?]

## Match the discount rate to the risk. . .

 $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_{f} + \mathbf{RP}$ 

## **Disc.Rate = Riskfree Rate + Risk Premium**

(Riskfree Rate = US T-Bill Yield.)

## Numerical example...

Hypothetical office building net cash flows:										
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CFt	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$1.5	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$22

First 6 years CFs are covered by an *existing lease* (contractual CFs). Other cash flows are more risky. DCF Valuation:

$$\$13,058,000 = \sum_{t=1}^{3} \frac{\$1}{(1.08)^{t}} + \sum_{t=4}^{6} \frac{\$1.5}{(1.08)^{t}} + \sum_{t=7}^{10} \frac{\$2}{(1.15)^{t}} + \frac{\$20}{(1.15)^{t}}$$

Here we have estimated the discount rate at 8% for the relatively low-risk lease CFs (e.g., if T-Bond Yld = 6%, then RP=2%), and at 15% for the relatively high-risk later CFs (→ 9% risk premium).
→ Implied property value = \$13,058,000.

## **10.2.2 Intralease & Interlease Discount Rates**

The real difference in risk is between CFs covered by *signed* lease contracts, vs CFs *expected* (but not contractually certain) deriving from leases not yet signed. Once a lease is signed, the subsequent risk is reduced.

More correct valuation of the previous property, with:

- 8% = Intralease discount rate,
- 15% = Interlease (& reversion) discount rate...

$$\$13,453,000 = \sum_{t=1}^{3} \frac{\$1}{(1.08)^{t}} + \sum_{t=4}^{6} \frac{\$1.5}{(1.08)^{t}} + \left(\frac{1}{(1.15)^{6}}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^{4} \frac{\$2}{(1.08)^{t}}\right) + \frac{\$20}{(1.15)^{10}}$$

Current practice usually is not this sophisticated for typical properties. If the lease expiration pattern is typical, a single *"blended"* discount rate is typically used.

Thus, for this building, we would typically observe a "going-in IRR" of 13.13%, applied to *all* the expected future CFs...

$$\$13,453,000 = \sum_{t=1}^{3} \frac{\$1}{(1.1313)^{t}} + \sum_{t=4}^{6} \frac{\$1.5}{(1.1313)^{t}} + \sum_{t=7}^{10} \frac{\$2}{(1.1313)^{t}} + \frac{\$20}{(1.1313)^{t}}$$

In principle, this can allow "arbitrage" opportunities if investors are not careful (especially as the ABS mkt develops...

#### Example:

Suppose property with 7-yrs remaining on vintage lease but same expected CFs as before.

Purchase for \$13,453,000, then sell lease for \$6,813,000 and property residual for \$6,881,000, for a profit of \$241,000:

$$\$6,\$13,000 = \sum_{t=1}^{3} \frac{\$1}{(1.08)^{t}} + \sum_{t=4}^{6} \frac{\$1.5}{(1.08)^{t}} + \frac{\$2}{(1.08)^{7}}$$

$$\$6,881,000 = \left(\frac{1}{(1.15)^7}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^3 \frac{\$2}{(1.08)^t}\right) + \frac{\$20}{(1.15)^{10}}$$

Valuation shortcuts: "Ratio valuation"...

1) DIRECT CAPITALIZATION:

## A WIDELY-USED SHORTCUT VALUATION PROCEDURE:

- SKIP THE MULTI-YEAR CF FORECAST
- DIVIDE CURRENT (UPCOMING YEAR) NET OPERATING INCOME (NOI) BY CURRENT MARKET CAP RATE (YIELD, NOT THE TOTAL RETURN USED IN DCF)

The idea behind direct capitalization...

IF "CAP RATE" = NOI / V,

**THEN:** 

V = NOI / CAP RATE

## (FORMALLY, NOT CAUSALLY)

MOST APPROPRIATE FOR BLDGS W SHORT-TERM LEASES IN LESS CYCLICAL MARKETS, LIKE APARTMENTS.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

250 UNIT APARTMENT COMPLEX AVG RENT = \$15,000/unit/yr 5% VACANCY ANNUAL OPER. EXPENSES = \$6000 / unit 8.82% CAP RATE (KORPACZ SURVEY)

#### VALUATION BY DIRECT CAPITALIZATION:

NET OPER INCOME (NOI)		= \$2.062.500	
- OPERATING EXPENSES	= 250*6000	= 1,500,000	
- VACANCY ALLOWANCE (5%)	= 0.5*3750000	= 187,500	
POTENTIAL GROSS INCOME (PGI)	=250*15000	= \$3,750,000	

V = 2,062,500 / 0.0882 = \$23,384,354, say approx. \$23,400,000

2) GROSS INCOME MULTIPLIER (GIM):

GIM = V / GROSS REVENUE

COMMONLY USED FOR <u>SMALL</u> APARTMENTS. (OWNER'S MAY NOT RELIABLY REVEAL GOOD EXPENSE RECORDS, SO YOU CAN'T COMPUTE NOI (= Rev - Expense), BUT RENTS CAN BE OBSERVED INDEPENDENTLY IN THE RENTAL MARKET.)

IN PREVIOUS APT EXAMPLE THE GIM IS:

23,400,000 / 3,750,000 = 6.2.

## **Empirical cap rates and market values...**

Cap rates are a way of <u>quoting</u> <u>observed market</u> <u>prices</u> for property assets (like bond "yields" are the way bond prices are reported).

E.g., Korpacz Survey



Exh.11-6b: Investor Cap Rate Expectations for Various Property Types\*

\*Source: Korpacz Investor Survey, 1st quarter 1999

	Malls	Strip Ctrs	Indust. Apts		CBD Office	Suburb. Off.	Hou.Off	SF Off	
Institutional	8.41%	9.76%	9.14%	8.83%	8.82%	9.17%	9.43%	8.42%	
Non-institutional	9.88%	11.97%	10.21%	9.83%	10.56%	10.83%	10.75%	9.58%	

## **DANGERS** IN MKT-BASED RATIO VALUATION...

1) DIRECT CAPITALIZATION CAN BE MISLEADING FOR MARKET VALUE IF PROPERTY DOES NOT HAVE CASH FLOW GROWTH AND RISK PATTERN TYPICAL OF OTHER PROPERTIES FROM WHICH CAP RATE WAS OBTAINED. (WITH GIM IT'S EVEN MORE DANGEROUS: OPERATING EXPENSES MUST ALSO BE TYPICAL.)

2) Market-based ratio valuation won't protect you from "bubbles"! *Typical mistakes in DCF application to commercial property...* 

**CAVEAT!** BEWARE OF **"G.I.G.O."** 

===> Forecasted Cash Flows:

Must Be <u>REALISTIC</u> Expectations (Neither Optimistic, Nor Pessimistic) ===> Discount Rate should be OCC: Based on Ex Ante Total Returns in Capital Market

(Including <u>REALISTIC</u> Property Market Expectations)

- Read the "fine print".
- Look for "hidden assumptions".
- Check realism of assumptions.

### **Three most common <b>mistakes** in R.E. DCF practice:

- Rent & income growth assumption is *too high* aka: *"We all know rents grow with inflation, don't we!"?...* Remember: Properties tend to *depreciate* over time in <u>real</u> terms (net of inflation). → Usually, rents & income <u>within a given building</u> do not keep pace with inflation, long run.
- 2. Capital improvement expenditure projection, &/or terminal cap rate projection, are *too low* –

Remember: Capital improvement expenditures typically average at least 10%-20% of the NOI (1%-2% of the property value) over the long run.
Going-out cap rate is typically *at least as high* as the going-in cap rate (older properties are more risky and have less growth potential).

#### 3. Discount rate (expected return) is *too high* –

This third mistake may *offset* the first two, resulting in a realistic estimate of property current value, thereby *hiding* all three mistakes!

### *Numerical example:* Two cash flow streams . . .

Y	ear:									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
\$1,000	,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,102,500	\$1,157,625	\$1,215,506	\$1,276,282	\$1,340,096	\$1,407,100	\$1,477,455	\$17,840,274
\$1,000	,000	\$1,010,000	\$1,020,100	\$1,030,301	\$1,040,604	\$1,051,010	\$1,061,520	\$1,072,135	\$1,082,857	\$12,139,907

- First has 5%/yr growth,
- Second has 1%/yr growth.
- Both have same initial cash flow level (\$1,000,000).
- Both have PV = \$10,000,000: First discounted @ 15%, Second discounted @ 11%.

As both streams have same starting value & same PV, both may appear consistent with <u>observable current</u> information in the space and property markets. *(e.g., rents are typically \$1,000,000, and property values are typically \$10,000,000 for properties like this.)* 

Suppose *realistic* growth rate is 1%, not 5%. Then the first CF projection gives investors an *unrealistic* return expectation of 15%.

- "Unfair" comparisons (e.g., bond returns cannot be "fudged" like this).
- Investor is "set up" to be disappointed in long run.

## **Results of these types of mistakes:**

**Unrealistic expectations** 

Long-run undermining credibility of the DCF valuation procedure

## DCF and Investment Decision Rules: the NPV Rule...

- DCF  $\rightarrow$  Property value ("V") . . .
- But how do we know whether an investment is a *"good deal"* or not?...
- How should we decide whether or not to make a given investment decision?

## **NPV = PV(Benefit) – PV(Cost)**

- *i.e.:* NPV = Value of what you get Value of what you give up to get it,
- All measured in equivalent "apples-to-apples" dollars, because we have discounted all the values to present using discount rates reflecting risk.

#### **"THE NPV INVESTMENT DECISION RULE":**

1) MAXIMIZE THE NPV ACROSS ALL MUTUALLY-EXCLUSIVE ALTERNATIVES; <u>AND</u>

2) NEVER CHOOSE AN ALTERNATIVE THAT HAS: NPV < 0.

## **The NPV Investment Decision Rule**

**IF BUYING:** NPV = V - P**IF SELLING:** NPV = P - V

Where:

- V = Value of property at time-zero (e.g., based on DCF)
- P = Selling price of property (in time-zero equivalent \$)

# Example:

# $DCF \Rightarrow V = $13,000,000$ You can buy @ P = \$10,000,000. NPV = V-P = \$13M - \$10M = +\$3M.

# Note: NPV Rule is based <u>directly</u> on the "Wealth Maximization Principle"...

WEALTH MAXIMIZATION ⇒ The NPV Rule

Maximize the current value of the investor's net wealth. Otherwise, you're "leaving money on the table".

## **NPV Rule Corollary:**

"Zero NPV deals are OK!"



Zero NPV deals are not zero profit.(They only lack "super-normal" profit.)A zero NPV deal is only "bad" if it is prevents the investor from undertaking a positive NPV deal.

In fact, on the basis of "market value" (MV)...

Based on "market value" (MV),

NPV(Buyer) = V-P = MV-PNPV(Seller) = P-V = P-MV = -NPV(Buyer)

Therefore, if both the buyer and seller apply the NPV Rule  $(NPV \ge 0)$ , then:

(i) NPV(Buyer) ≥ 0 ⇒ -NPV(Seller) ≥ 0 ⇒ NPV(Seller) ≤ 0;
(ii) NPV(Seller) ≥ 0 ⇒ -NPV(Buyer) ≥ 0 ⇒ NPV(Buyer) ≤ 0;
(i)&(ii) together ⇒ NPV(Buyer) = NPV(Seller) = 0.

Thus, measured on the basis of MV, we actually *expect* that:

NPV = 0.

## Sources of "illusions" of big positive NPVs

- 1) OCC (discount rate) is *not* the cost of borrowed funds (e.g., mortgage interest rate).
- 2) Land value? (not just historical cost)
- 3) Search & Management Costs?
- 4) "Private Info"? (But MV is based on *public* info.)

However, in Real Estate it is possible to <u>occasionally</u> find deals with substantially positive, or negative, NPV, even based on MV.

Real estate asset markets not informationally efficient:

People make "pricing mistakes" (they can't observe MV for sure for a given property)

- Your own research may uncover "news" relevant to value (just before the market knows it)

#### What about **unique** circumstances or abilities? . . .

Generally, real uniqueness does not affect MV.

Precisely because you are unique, you can't expect someone else to be willing to pay what you could, or be willing to sell for what you would. (May affect "investment value" – IV, not MV.)

## IRR vs. NPV

SOMETIMES IT IS USEFUL (anyway, it is very common in the real world) TO "INVERT" THE DCF PROCEDURE...

INSTEAD OF CALCULATING THE VALUE ASSOCIATED WITH A GIVEN EXPECTED RETURN, CALCULATE THE EXPECTED RETURN (IRR) ASSOCIATED WITH A GIVEN PRICE FOR THE PROPERTY.

I.E., WHAT DISCOUNT RATE WILL CAUSE THE EXPECTED FUTURE CASH FLOWS TO BE WORTH THE GIVEN PRICE?...

THEN THE DECISION RULE IS: 1) MAXIMIZE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN: IRR AND REQUIRED RETURN 2) NEVER DO A DEAL WITH: IRR < REQ'D RETURN

REQ'D RETURN = "HURDLE RATE" =  $r_f + RP$ 

When using the IRR (hurdle) version of the basic investment decision rule: Watch out for mutually exclusive alternatives of different scales.

e.g., \$15M project @ 15% is better than \$5M project @20% if cost of capital (hurdle) in both is 10%. **Property-Level** Investment Performance Attribution

(Ch. 10 Appendix & Ch.27 Sect. 27.1.1)

**Real Estate Investment** *"Performance Attribution"* 

#### **DEFINITION:**

The *decomposition* (or "breaking down", or "parsing") of the total investment return of a subject property or portfolio of properties (or an investment manager).

**PURPOSE:** To assist with the *diagnosis* and understanding of what caused the given investment performance.

**USAGE:** By investment managers (agents) and their investor clients (principals).

## **Two levels**

at which performance attribution is performed:

- Property level Pertains to individual properties or static portfolios of multiple properties.
- Portfolio level Pertains to dynamic portfolios or investment manager (or fund) level.

Major attributes (return components):

At the PROPERTY LEVEL:

Initial Cash Yield Cash Flow Change Yield Change

At the PORTFOLIO LEVEL: Allocation Selection Interaction

#### **"Performance Attribution":**

• Often useful for *diagnostic* purposes to compare *subject* portfolio or mgr with an appropriate *benchmark*...



Property level performance attribution focuses on "*property level*" investment performance, i.e., the total return achieved within a given property or a static (fixed) portfolio of properties (that is, apart from the effect of investment allocation decisions, as if holding allocation among categories constant).

Property level attribution should be designed to break out the property level total return performance in a manner useful for shedding light on the four major property level investment management functions:

- Property selection (picking "good" properties as found);
- Acquisition transaction execution;
- Operational management during the holding period (e.g., marketing, leasing, expense mgt, capital expenditure mgt);
- Disposition transaction execution.

These property-level management functions are related generally to three attributes (components) of the propertylevel since-acquisition IRR, essentially as indicated below...



Conventional property level performance attribution is based on periodic returns, or on time-weighted multi-period returns (TWRRs, e.g., as implemented by IPD in England and PCA in Australia).

But IRR-based performance attribution is arguably more useful for property level management diagnostic purposes, because:

• At the property level, the investment manager is typically responsible for the major cash flow *timing* decisions that can significantly effect property level (static portfolio) returns, e.g., leasing decisions, capital expenditure decisions.

• The IRR is sensitive to the effect of cash flow timing, the TWRR is not.

• The IRR is cash flow based (net of capital improvement expenditures), therefore, more accurately reflecting the investment return effect of capital improvement decisions.

**Useful IRR-Based property level performance attribution benchmarking requires the use of:** 

## **Since-acquisition IRR**

• IRR is computed since acquisition of property (or portfolio):

• In order to reflect investment operational performance during entire holding period since acquisition;

• Property investment holding periods are typically multiyear (single period or periodic returns do not reflect effective investment management holding period).

• IRR is computed for appropriate benchmark cohort, defined as universe of similar investments by competing managers, measured from same inception date (equal to property acquisition date).

**Simple Numerical Example:** 

• Property (or static portfolio) bought at initial cash yield of 9%.

• Net cash flow grew at 2% per year.

• Property (or properties) sold (or appraised) after 10 years at a terminal yield of 10%, based on yr.11 projected cash flow (also 2% more than yr.10).

• IRR is 10.30%.

• How much of this IRR is due to 3 components: Initial Yield (IY), Cash Flow Change (CFC), and Yield Change (YC)?...

# There are several ways one might answer this question. The approach that seems most intuitively related to the 4 basic mgt fcns is presented here...

Yr	IRRs:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(1) Actual Oper.CF			1.0000	1.0200	1.0404	1.0612	1.0824	1.1041	1.1262	1.1487	1.1717	1.1951	1.2190
(2) Actual Capital CF		-11.1111										12.1899	
(3) Actual Total CF (=1+2)	10.30%	-11.1111	1.0000	1.0200	1.0404	1.0612	1.0824	1.1041	1.1262	1.1487	1.1717	13.3850	
(4) Init.Oper.CF constant			1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
(5) Capital CF @ Init.Yld.on(4)		-11.1111										11.1111	
(6) Init.CF @ Init.Yld (=4+5)	9.00%	-11.1111	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	12.1111	
(7) Capital CF @ Init.Yld.on(1)		-11.1111										13.5444	
(8) Actual Oper. CF @ Init.Yld (=1+7)	11.00%	-11.1111	1.0000	1.0200	1.0404	1.0612	1.0824	1.1041	1.1262	1.1487	1.1717	14.7395	
(9) Capital CF @ ActualYld.on(4)		-11.1111										10.0000	
(10) Init.CF @ Actual Yld (=4+9)	8.32%	-11.1111	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	11.0000	

- Initial yield = 9.00%, computed from line (6) IRR.
- Cash flow change component = 2.00% = 11%-9%, computed as the line (8) IRR less the line (6) IRR: = IRR with actual CF IRR with no CF growth, (with constant yld at initial rate).

• Yield change component = -0.68% = 8.32%-9.00%, computed as the line (10) IRR less the line (6) IRR: = IRR with actual yld chg – IRR with no yld chg, (with constant CF at initial level).

• Interraction effect = -0.02%, the difference bertween the line (3) overall IRR and the sum of the three other attributes [10.3%-(9%+2%-0.68%)].

Here is a graphical presentation of the IRR-Based property-level performance attribution we just performed:



Suppose we computed the same type of IRR component breakdown for an appropriate benchmark, that is, a NCREIF sub-index cohort spanning the same period of time...

bldgs):

We could compare our subject performance with that achieved by a peer universe of managers, for similar properties (e.g., Calif. Industr.



Here is the *relative performance*, the *difference* between our subject property and its benchmark, by attribute:



The above pattern could be plausibly interpreted as tentative evidence for the following hypothesis: Subject performed relatively poorly due largely to some combination of poor selection, acquisition, and operational mgt, partially offset by some combination of good disposition execution (or optimistic terminal appraisal), future-oriented capital improvements, &/or market movements during the holding period.

Here is the *relative performance*, the *difference* between our subject property and its benchmark, by attribute:



Now suppose we computed these relative performance differentials across a number of different properties (or portfolios) we have invested in...

## **Property-Level Performance Attribution...** We might gain some insights about our property-level investment and management performance:



In this case Subject Properties #1 & 3 have similarly poor performance (rel to benchmk), due to poor initial yield & poor CF change, suggesting poor acquisition & poor operational mgt. Property #2 did better, with good InitYld & CFchg, but poor YldChg (suggesting good acquisition, but poor disposition or mgt actions that hurt future outlook (e.g., inadequate Cap.Improvement). Mkt movements can also affect these results (less so the longer the holding period).