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Implementing a Valuation Model using Python

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API Application Programming Interface	
DCF Discounted Free Cash Flow	
FCF Free Cash Flow	
GUI Graphical User Interface	
IDE Integrated Development Environment	

1. The Project Idea

For this project, we tried to find an easier solution to value company. Indeed, estimating the value of a company is often tedious and time-consuming. The latter involves building a valuation model and looking at the company fillings to extract data. We propose an automated python graphical user interface (GUI) that does all the heavy work for us.

Our coding project uses financial data from an application programming interface (API) and then computes the value of the company based on the assumptions the user enters. Our GUI allows the user the enter the ticker symbol of the company he/she wants to value. Then, as a first step, the actual price of the share and the past 4-year growth of free cash flow is printed out on the screen. With that information, the user can make more reasonable future growth assumptions. The user must also enter the discount rate. As a final step, the intrinsic value is display on the GUI and compared to today's stock price.

In the first part of this paper, we will first describe in detail the valuation model used. We will explain why we choose this model and how it works. Then, in the second part, we will demonstrate how our python code functions. We have separated the coding part into three sections: the first one talks about the API used, the second one about the GUI coding and the last one about the calculation steps.

You can find the full Python code and the documentation under GitHub by scanning the QR-code below:



Link: https://github.com/nycoschlr/DCF_Model_Python

2. Calculation of the model

2.1 Justification & Limitation

For our valuation model, we have decided to follow a discounted free cash flow model (DCF). We choose this model because, according to Jennergren (2008, p. 2), it is the most used in practice. Another advantage is that the model is quite simple to understand. The value of the company is equal to the projected free cash flows discounted for today. In practice, however, the calculation can be modeled for company specific data (e.g., computing the weighted average cost of capital), this requires an extensive model. For this project, we will focus on a simple model to implement in python.

One you should keep in mind that the DCF model, as any model, possesses limitations. One drawback of the model is its sensitivity for the input assumptions, a small shift in one's assumptions can lead to an important shift of the equity value of the company. Furthermore, the model is based on projected assumptions but predicting the future is a complex task. In addition, the company needs to have positive cash flows, this is often not the case for growing startups. In the next part, we will explain the formula behind our model.

2.2 Formula

In this section, we will explain what formula and calculations we did to find the intrinsic value of companies. As a first step, we compute the value of future cash flows. The general formula of the DCF model is as follow:

$$DCF = \frac{FCF_1}{(1+r)^1} + \frac{FCF_2}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{FCF_3}{(1+r)^3} + \dots + \frac{FCF_n}{(1+r)^n}$$

where:

DCF represents the sum of all future cash flows discounted FCF_n represents the free cash flow in period n r represents the discount rate

n represents the time in years

This formula gives us the value of all future cash flows reported to today's value. However, in our model, we are not going to value the cash flows indefinitely. Thus, we have decided to project the next 6 years. However, the business might still be able to generate cash flow after the 6-year period, how can one account for that factor? This is where the terminal value comes in. As a second step, we compute a value for all the future cash flows after period 6. For this calculation, we used the following formula:

Terminal value =
$$\frac{FCF_{n \text{ at end}} * (1+g)}{r-g}$$

where:

g represents the long - term growth rate

n at end represents the end period of the projected cash flows

At this stage, we have calculated the value of projected future free cash flows and accounted for the fact that the company might still generate cash at a growth rate of g afterwards. By adding the two, we get the enterprise value, defined as follow in our case:

$$Entreprise\ value = DCF + Terminal\ Value$$

Since we only want to find the equity value of the company, we must adjust the enterprise value like this:

$$Equity\ Value = Entreprise\ value - Net\ debt + Cash\ Amount$$

Then, as a user, we want to compare our intrinsic value to the actual share price of the stock. Therefore, we just need to divide the computed equity value by the number of share outstanding.

This gives us the price we should pay for the company. From our calculated price, we can then estimate if the actual price is overvalued or undervalued.

$$Equity\ value\ per\ share = \frac{Equity\ Value}{Number\ of\ shares\ outstanding}$$

2.3 Excel Version

To check the sanity of our python code, we first implemented the valuation model in excel. This allows us to verify that our python code outputs the same value as our excel calculation. It also serves as a guideline to implement the calculations step by step in python. We also used a color code to represent different steps for our python code.

 $\label{eq:Table 1} Table \ 1$ The Implementation of our model in excel

	Past Value	Future Value	70%		77		
years	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FCF	92953000000	1.04107E+11	1.166E+11	1.30592E+11	1.46263E+11	1.63815E+11	1.83473E+11
FCF discounted		94643054545	96363837355	98115907125	99899832710	1.01716E+11	1.03566E+11
Sum of FCF	5.94304E+11						
Discount rate	10%						
Growth rate of FCF	12%						
Long-term growth rate	4%						
FCF n=6	1.83473E+11						
Terminal Value	3.18019E+12						
Discounted TV	1.79514E+12						
Entreprise Value	2.38944E+12						
Net Debt	89779000000						
Cash	34940000000						
Number of shares	16701272000						
Equity value	2.3346E+12						
Equity value per share	139.79						

Note. Table compiled by author.

The yellow cases represent the data that our python would need to get from a financial data provider. The orange cases represent the input assumption of our user. The bottom dark blue

case represents the calculated equity value that needs to be displayed to our user. This technique helps us to develop the code in a structured manner. In the next section, we will explain our python implementation.

3. Python Code Explanation

3.1 API

Firstly, we need financial data for our python code. We have decided to use the API of financial modeling prep (accessible under https://site.financialmodelingprep.com/developer) since they have a free plan, detailed documentation, and the financial data that we are looking for. They offer balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statement data. We signed up for free and got our API key. Our limit is 250 API calls per day. Below you can find an example of the documentation.

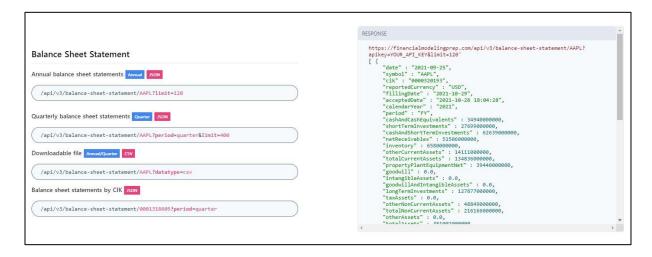


Figure 1. How to get balance sheet data using the API. Retrieved from https://site.financialmodelingprep.com/developer/docs

As a summary, we need to find the following financial data for our model: the free cash flows, the net debt, the cash, the number of shares outstanding.

3.2 **GUI**

This first part of our python code is about coding the GUI. We used a video tutorial named "Tkinter Course – Create Graphical User Interface in Python Tutorial" published by freeCodeCamp.org to implement our GUI, it is accessible under the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXPyB4XeYLA&list=LL&index=5.

For our GUI, we are going to need the package Tkinter, it is useful since it is especially designed for creating GUI. First, we need to install the package in our integrated development environment (IDE). This can be done running the following command line in our terminal:

```
pip install tk
```

Once this is done, we can start coding. For the GUI part, we follow this structure: Tkinter Labels, then Tkinter Inputs.

Figure 2. Introduction part of our code. Compiled by author.

To see our GUI, we also need to add one line of code at the end which is:

root.mainloop()

This line is not in Figure 2 because it is at the end of the full code.

We have now initiated a simple GUI with nothing on the screen. In the next part, we will create Labels which are text elements on the screen.

```
..................
title_label.grid(row=0, column=0)
blank.grid(row=2, column=0)
ticker_symbol_box = tk.Label(root, text="1) Enter the ticker symbol (US stock):", font=("times new roman", 14))
blank_1.grid(row=6, column=1)
output_stock_price.grid(row=6, column=2)
```

Figure 3. Tkinter Labels Part 1. Compiled by author

```
#Past growth Label
output_growth_rate_fof = tk.Label(root, text="4-yr growth rate of FCF: ", font=("arial", 14))
output_growth_rate_fof.grid(rom=7, column=2)

#Future growth_rate_fof = tk.Label(root, text="2) Future growth rate assumption of FCF in %: ", font=("times new roman", 14))
future_growth_rate_fof = tk.Label(root, text="2) Future growth rate assumption of FCF in %: ", font=("times new roman", 14))
future_growth_rate_fof.grid(rom=10, column=0)

#Biscount rate Label
future_discount_rate = tk.Label(root, text=="Discount rate (desired returns) in %: ", font=("times new roman", 14))
future_discount_rate.grid(rom=18, column=0)

#Blank number 2
blank_2 = tk.Label(root, text==" ", font=("calibre", 20, "bold"))
blank_2.grid(rom=13, column=2)

#Calculated value Label
output_intrinsic_value = tk.Label(root, text="Intrinsic Value: ", font=("arial", 14))
output_intrinsic_value.grid(rom=_14, column=2)

#Output_poside_potential = tk.Label(root, text="Upside potential: ", font=("arial", 14))
output_upside_potential = tk.Label(root, text="Upside potential: ", font=("arial", 14))
output_upside_potential.grid(rom=16, column=2)

#All the texts elements are now displayed on the screen.
```

Figure 4. Tkinter Labels Part 2. Compiled by author.

All the text elements are displayed on the screen.

However, we still need the input of users. We use the function Entry for this purpose.

Figure 5. Tkinter User Inputs. Compiled by author.

The Tkinter buttons still need to be defined. However, functions need to be given to buttons. Thus, we will define our function and then come back to the buttons.

3.3 Calculation steps

We can now define our functions for the buttons. But, first, we need to import the requirements to communicate with the API.

Figure 6. API requirements. Compiled by author.

Then we define our first function in figure 7 and 8. Function 1 in will display the actual stock price on the screen (part 1) as well as the past 4-year growth of the free cash flow (part 2). This is useful for the user to make more sound assumptions for the future growth rate input.

```
def get_financial_data():
     ticker = input_ticker_symbol.get()
     ticker = ticker.upper()
    r = requests.get(url)
    price = pd.DataFrame.from_dict(r.json()).transpose()
     price.columns = price.iloc[0]
    price = price.iloc[1:]
     global price_of_ticker
    price_of_ticker = price.iloc[2][0]
    price_of_ticker = round(price_of_ticker, 2)
     price_label.grid(row=6, column=3)
```

Figure 7. Function 1, part 1. Compiled by author.

The price of the stock is now displayed next to the label "Actual Stock Price:" in the GUI. The next step is to display the past growth (part 2). This is detailed in Figure 8.

```
cash_2020 = cash_flows.iloc[0]
    cash_2016 = cash_flows.iloc[5]
average\_compound\_growth = (((int(cash\_2020) / int(cash\_2016)) ** (1 / 4)) - 1)*100
average_compound_growth = round(average_compound_growth, 2)
growth_label = tk.Label(root, text=str(average_compound_growth)+"%", font=("times new roman", 14))
growth_label.grid(row=7, column=3)
```

Figure 8. Function 1, part 2. Compiled by author.

For the lines 242, 243, and 244, we used the help from an online video tutorial published by Spencer Pao called "SAVING TIME: Scraping Financial Data", accessible under the link "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGgNM7WanK8".

For the average compound growth rate, we used the following formula:

$$CAGR = \frac{(CFCF\ 2020)^{\frac{1}{4}}}{(FCF\ 2016)} - 1$$

Function 1 is now defined. We will now assign function 1 to a button, so when the user clicks on the button, the function gets executed. This is explained in figure 9.

Figure 9. Button for function 1. Compiled by author.

We can now look at function 2. The latter will import financial data, use the user's input assumptions, and calculate the intrinsic value just like our excel model did.

```
def intrinsic value():
    future_growth_rate = input_future_growth_rate.get()
    future_growth_rate = int(future_growth_rate)
    future_growth_rate = future_growth_rate/100
   discount_rate = input_discount_rate.get()
    cash_2021 = cash_2020 * (1 + future_growth_rate)
   cash_2022 = cash_2021 * (1 + future_growth_rate)
   cash_2023 = cash_2022 * (1 + future_growth_rate)
   cash_2024 = cash_2023 * (1 + future_growth_rate)
   cash_2025 = cash_2024 * (1 + future_growth_rate)
   cash_2026 = cash_2025 * (1 + future_growth_rate)
    cash_discount_2022 = cash_2022 / ((1 + discount_rate) ** 2)
    cash_discount_2026 = cash_2026 / ((1 + discount_rate) ** 6)
```

Figure 10. Function 2, part 1. Compiled by author.

Figure 11. Function 2, part 2. Compiled by author.

We still need to find the number of shares outstanding. Then, we can compute the equity value per share just like our excel model did.

Figure 12. Function 2, part 3. Compiled by author.

In figure 13, we can finally compute the equity value per share.

```
#We can finally compute the equity value by following the DCF formula.
equity_value = enterprise_value - net_debt_2020 + cash
equity_value_per_share = equity_value / number_shares_2020

#We round the results to two decimals.
equity_value_per_share = round(equity_value_per_share, 2)

#We create a label for the output to be displayed on the screen. We add a "USD" symbol for better
#understanfding. Using grid, we positioned the element on the GUI screen.
intrinsic_value_label = tk.Label(root, text=str(equity_value_per_share)+" USD", font=("times new roman", 14))
intrinsic_value_label.grid(row=14, column=3)

#We define an upside potential describing the potential gain in percentage between the calculated
#value and the actual stock price. The upside potential is negative if the stock is overvalued.
upside_potential = (equity_value_per_share / price_of_ticker) - 1

#Put in percentage
upside_potential = upside_potential*100

#Rounding to two decimals
upside_potential = round(upside_potential, 2)

#Creating a label to display the upside potential as text. We convert the upside_potential into a string.
upside_potential_label = tk.Label(root, text=str(upside_potential)+"%", font=("times new roman", 14))
upside_potential_label.grid(row=16, column=3)
```

Figure 13. Function 2, part 4. Compiled by author.

Our GUI also computes a potential upside in percentage meaning how much the stock is undervalued compared to the actual stock price. The potential upside is positive when the stock is undervalued and negative when overvalued. We just need to link function 2 to a button and everything should work. We also added an exit button to quit the GUI when the user is done.

Figure 14. Function 2, button. Compiled by author.

As a result, running the code gives us a GUI where the user can input the ticker symbol, the growth rate, the discount rate. As an output, the actual stock price, the past 4-year growth of free cash flows (FCF), the intrinsic value, and the potential upside are displayed on the screen.

The final GUI can be seen in figure 15.

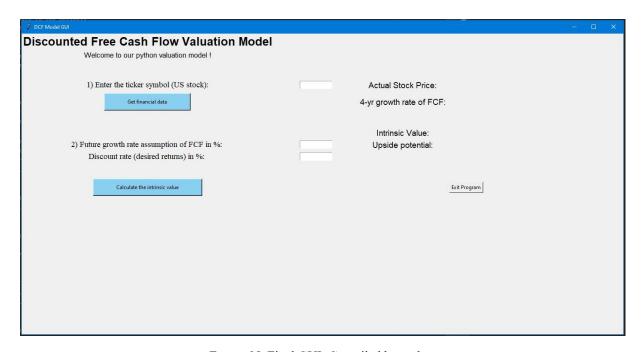


Figure 15. Final GUI. Compiled by author.

3.4 Testing & Limitations

We decided to quickly compare the strengths of our model with valuation from the website "https://www.gurufocus.com". We choose three companies to test our model: Apple (AAPL), Intel (INTC) and Meta Platforms (FB). The following assumptions were used:

Table 2

Comparison of our model to gurufocus.com

Ticker	Growth rate	Discount rate	Conclusion	Gurufocus
AAPL	10	10	Overvalued by	Overvalued by
			17.89%	28.45%
FB	20	10	Overvalued by	Undervalued by
			6.59%	5.63%
AMZN	32	10	Undervalued by	Undervalued by
			7.29%	18.53%

Note. Table compiled by author (Gurufocus, 2021)

Overall, our model pointed towards the same direction as guru focus with an error margin of around 10%. Thus, our model seems to be, at least, not wrong. The goal of our model is not to

find a precise figure for the equity value but more to have a general idea of an attractive valuation for companies.

Regarding the limitation of our python code, some companies are not covered by the API. This could cause an error. For example, if we type in the Swiss company Swisscom, this will make our code crash. Another issue might be the different format between the different companies' documents. This could make our code lost when looking for a specific data. In addition, sometimes data points from the API are set up to zero, this might be an issue for the calculation of the intrinsic value and give biased numbers. As further research, our code could be improved to factor in all those potential errors.

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