# PARADIGM CAPITAL "THE FUTURE OF ACTIVE VALUE INVESTING"

25 APRIL 2018

BEN GRAHAM CENTRE'S 2018

VALUE INVESTING CONFERENCE

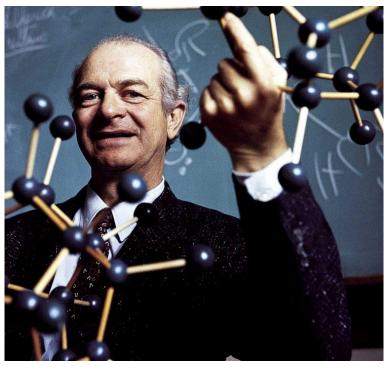
TORONTO

#### HOW DO WE CREATE AN EDGE AS VALUE INVESTORS...

- Imperfect space...
- Deep fundamental research...
- Concentrated portfolio...
- Hedging...

#### **SPECIALISATION IS ESSENTIAL...**





#### Ester Ledecká

#### Czech Republic

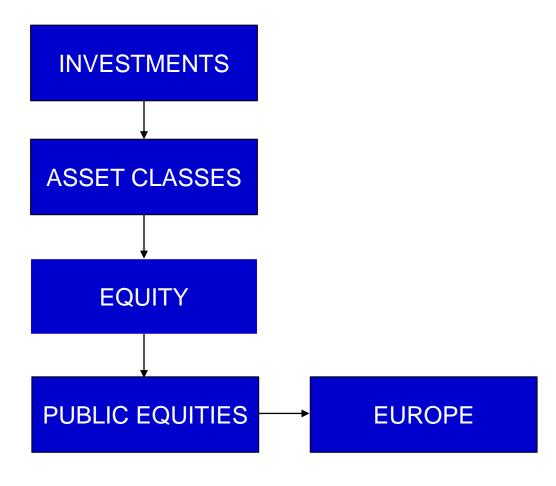
At the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang Ledecká won gold medals in the super-G in alpine skiing and in the parallel giant slalom in snowboarding

# **Linus Pauling**

USA

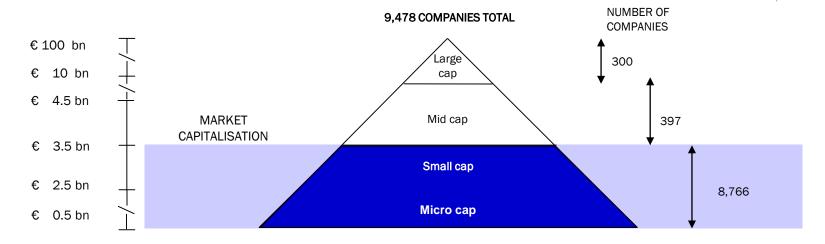
Pauling won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1954 and the Nobel Peace Price in 1962

#### HOW DO WE START OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS SPECIALISATION...



# A FOCUS ON PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANIES IN EUROPE OFFERS CLOSE TO TEN THOUSAND COMPANIES TO ANALYSE...

Approximately 700 mid and large caps account for more than 80% of the total European market cap but only for 7% of all companies.

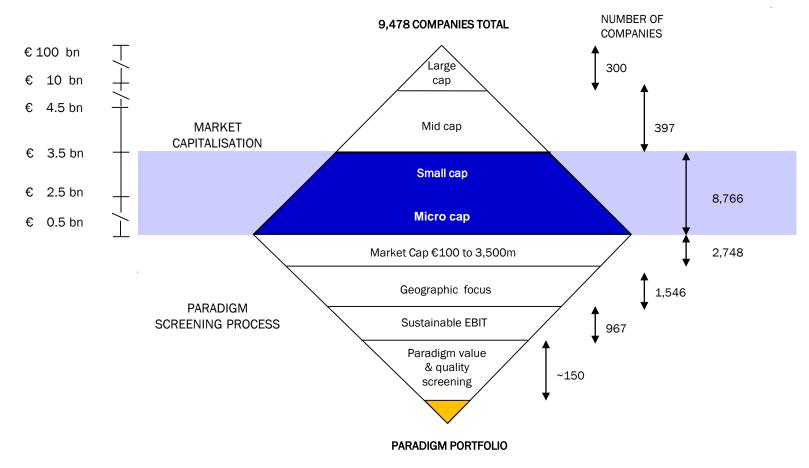


# Being an Active Value Investor in Europe we needed to have additional selection criteria...



#### SIZE AND GEOGRAPHY WERE ADDED TO THE LIST...

Approximately 700 mid and large caps account for more than 80% of the total European market cap but only for 7% of all companies.



Sources: Bloomberg and Paradigm Capital

# THE SEARCH PROCESS GENERATES MORE SUCCESS WHEN BEHAVIORAL ASPECTS ARE COMBINED WITH SPECIALISATION...

#### **Value Premium- Behavioral Finance**

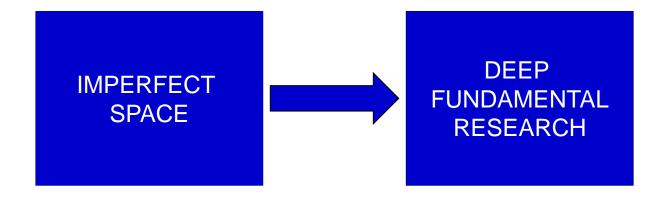
- Lottery Preference
- Ugliness Aversion
- Overconfidence/Uncertainty

# **Specialisation**

- Geography
- Size
- Industry
- Model



# HAVING DEFINED WHAT WE THINK IS AN IMPERFECT SPACE WE MOVE TO DEEP FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH...



#### VALUATION IS THE MOST CRITICAL SKILL FOR ANY VALUE INVESTOR...

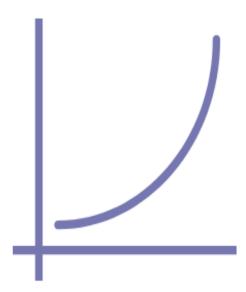
#### One Size Does Not Fit All

## Valuation Approach Depends On:

- Quality of Different Kinds of Information
- Horizon Over Which Events Affect Value

#### Four Basic Horizons:

- Distressed Debt / Short Term Fixed Income
- Real Assets / Competitive Businesses
- 3. Franchise Businesses
- 4. Growth



#### WE USE FIVE PILLARS WHEN VALUING SECURITIES...

#### **VALUE INVESTING**

Business Quality Balance Sheet Capital Allocation

Corporate Governance

Relative Value

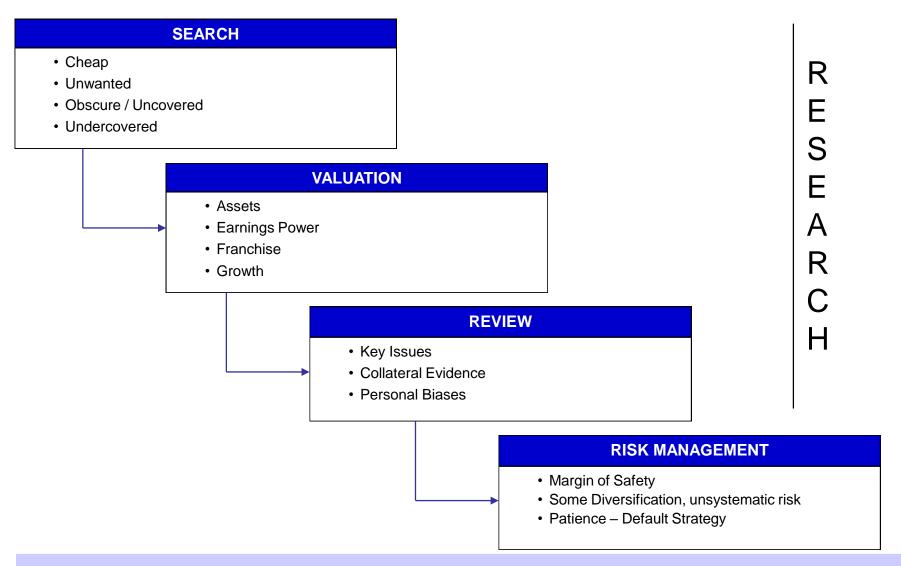
- Licences/patents
- Economies of scale
- Customer loyalty/ brand names
- Switching costs
- Culture

- Financial leverage
- Pension and leasing obligations
- Fixed assets
- NWC

- Internal projects
- M&A
- Debt reduction
- Dividends/buybacks
- Auditor/BoD
- Executive management
- Shareholder base
- Related party transactions

- Margin of safety
- Growth
- Return requirement

#### Now the Value Investing Process starts...



#### SHORTCOMINGS OF NPV APPROACH IN PRACTICE...

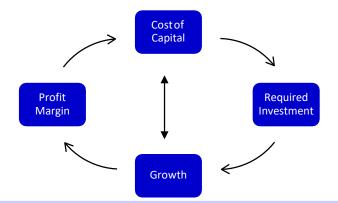
- 1. Ignores Information Balance Sheet
- 2. Method of Combining Information

$$NPV = CF_o + CF_1 \left[ \frac{1}{1+F} \right] + \dots + CF_{20} \left[ \frac{1}{1+R} \right]^{20} + \dots$$

$$Good \\ Information \\ (Precise)$$

$$= Bad/Imprecise Information$$

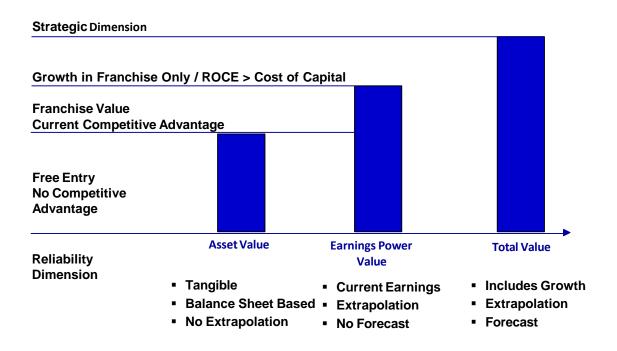
3. Sensitivity Analysis is Based on Difficult-to-Forecast Parameters, which co-vary in fairly complicated ways



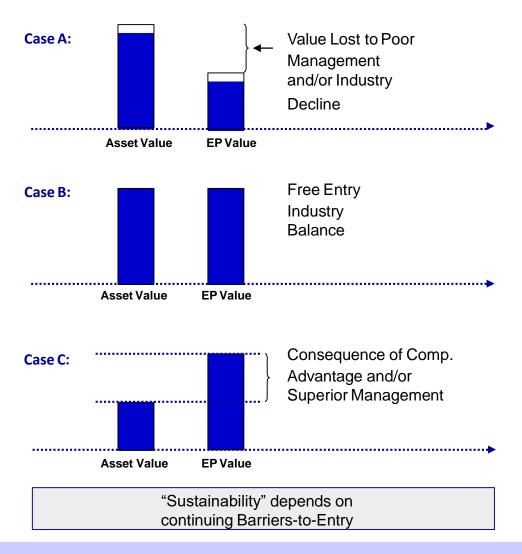
#### FIXED INCOME VALUATION...

- Positive Growth Does Not Matter
  - Growing Franchise No Distressed Debt
- Asset Value
  - Earnings Power Limited by Contracts
- Scenario Based Valuation
- Priority
- Timing

#### **BASIC ELEMENTS OF VALUE...**



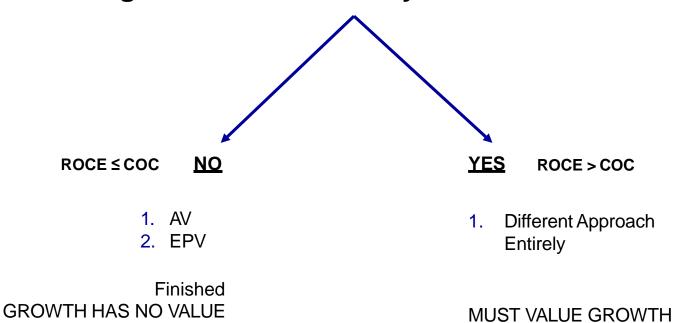
## COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES, EARNINGS POWER AND ENTRY BARRIERS...



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#### **VALUATION IN PRACTICE...**

Is this a company with significant competitive Advantages / Barriers-to-Entry?



#### TOTAL VALUE INCLUDING GROWTH...

- Least reliable
  - Forecast change not just stability (Earnings Power)
- Highly sensitive to assumptions
- Data indicates that investors systematically overpay for growth. Why comes later and at lower rate!
- Orthodox value investors want growth for "Free"
  - (Market Value < Earnings Power Value)</li>

#### **VALUING GROWTH BASICS...**

- Growth at a competitive disadvantage destroys value and capital
- Growth on a level playing field neither creates nor destroys value
- Only franchise growth (at industry rate) creates value



# UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF COST OF CAPITAL AND RETURN ON CAPITAL IS AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN OPERATING A BUSINESS AS WELL AS BEING A GOOD INVESTOR ...

Investment: \$100 million

**Cost of Funds**: 10% (R) = \$10M

Return on Investment (%)	5%	10%	20%		
Return on Investment (\$)	\$5M	\$10M	\$20M		
Cost of Investment	\$10M	\$10M	\$10M		
Net Income Created	(\$5M)	0	\$10M		
Net Value Created	(\$50M)	0	\$100M		
Qualitative Impact:	Value Destroyed	No Value	Value Created		
Situation:	Competitive Disadvantage	Level Playing Field	Competitive Advantage		

## VALUE IMPLICATIONS OF BARRIERS TO ENTRY...

Factor	No Barriers-To-Entry	Barriers-To-Entry			
Organic Growth	Attracts Entrants - No Value Margins Flat to Down	Creates Value Operating Leverage - Margins Up  Creates Value - Targeted Price Reductions - Lower Costs - Share of market growth organically  Creates Value if Properly Focused			
Cost-Reducing Tech	Raises Profits in Short Run Attracts Entrants Eliminates Earnings Benefit – No Value				
New Investments	Returns Limited by Entry Earn Cost of Capital, at best, no Value				
Growth Options	Beneficial Opportunities Attract Entrants Eliminates Profit – No Value	Potentially Create Value			

# CALCULATING RETURNS: A SIMPLE EXAMPLE...

Sustainable Revenue	\$3,000M
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Sustainable Net Margin 8%

Earnings Power \$240M

No Debt, No Excess Cash -

Distribution (DIVS, BBs) 50%\*

Cash Distribution \$120M

Retained (Reinvested) \$120M

Market Value \$4,000M

Earnings Return (240/4000) 6%

Cash Return (120/4000) 3%

Reinvested (120/4000) 3%

<sup>\*</sup>History, Policy

# CALCULATING RETURNS: A SIMPLE EXAMPLE (CONTINUED)...

Growth (Organic) - External Factors (Core Mkt)

Population, Income, Consumer Trends, Tech

<u>Consolidated History</u> – 3% Revenue (Same Store Sales)

3½ Earnings (Op Leverage)

Consolidated Context - GDP + Income - Goods

3½ % 0% ½%

Organic Growth Bottom Line – 3½% (Value)

#### **Investment Driven Growth**

Reinvestment = Retained Earnings \$120M

Organic Growth Requirement = (\$6M)

 $(3\% \times \$3,000 = \$90M \text{ Sales Growth})$ (NWC = 6 2/3% Chg. Sales = \\$6M)

Active Investment Value \$114M

Creation Factor Active 1.25

Value Creation \$143M

Active Return (143/4,000M) ~3.6%

## **TOTAL RETURN...**

Cash	3.0%
Organic Growth	3.5%
Active Investment	3.6%
Total	10.1%
Market Return	6.0%
Margin of Safety	4.1%

Fade/Erosion?

#### **ACTIVE RESEARCH...**

#### Research Coverage

- Local Research/ Focused Research
- Collateral Evidence
- Personal Bias

### Management Assessment

- Cost Efficiency
- Understand Value Creating Growth
- Proper Financing/ Distribution
- Human Resource Mgt.

#### Detailed Local Sources

- Community
- Full Range of Media
- Industry Contacts

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT: MEASURING RISK...**

#### Not Variance

- Value investors do not define risk as volatility, but view portfolio composition as critical when measuring risk
- Serial Correlation
- Upside-Downside Asymmetry

## Permanent Impairment of Capital

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT: PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT...**

- Central Management
- Situational Risk (at Purchase) Margin of Safety
  - General Risk is Usually Idiosyncratic
    - Diversification
- Basic Risk Profiles
  - Fixed Income
  - Real Assets/Basic Businesses
  - Franchise Businesses
- Insure Overall Risks
  - Safe Assets
  - Selective Shorts
  - Derivatives

Inflation risk
Deflation risk
Protected risk

# SINCE INCEPTION, PARADIGM CAPITAL'S VALUE INVESTING STRATEGY SHOWS A SUBSTANTIAL OUTPERFORMANCE...

Performance	H2 '07	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	YTD March 2018
Paradigm Capital (Net)	-5.2%	-15.8%	12.5%	43.8%	2.9%	7.2%	3.7%	6.1%	30.0%	22.3%	19.1%	-2.8%
STOXX Europe 50 (Gross)	-5.7%	-40.7%	29.9%	3.9%	-4.3%	13.9%	17.9%	6.7%	7.0%	1.2%	9.7%	-5.8%
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