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PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS, MARKET EQUILIBRIUM AND CORPORATION FINANCE

ROBERT S. HAMADA*

I. INTRODUCTION

AT LEAST THREE conceptual frameworks have been developed to study the effects of uncertainty on financial and economic decision-making in recent times. Of these, the homogenous risk-class concept constructed to eliminate the need for a general equilibrium model by Modigliani and Miller [20, 21, 22], henceforth abbreviated to MM, is most familiar to those interested in corporation finance. On the other hand, the most common basis for making personal or institutional investment decisions is the portfolio model first developed by Markowitz [16, 17]. Little has been developed rigorously to cross the finance fields using either of these two uncertainty frameworks.¹

More recently, a third uncertainty model has been revived by Hirshleifer [8, 9, 10] and labeled the time-state preference approach.² This last model is undoubtedly the most general approach to uncertainty and was used by Hirshleifer [10] to prove the famous MM no-tax Proposition I. Unfortunately, thus far, this generality has its cost. Using a time-state preference formulation, it is difficult to test its propositions empirically (since markets do not exist for each state) or to derive practical decision rules for capital budgeting within the firm.

The purpose of this paper is to derive the three MM Propositions using the standard deviation-mean portfolio model in a market equilibrium context. This approach to some of the major issues of corporation finance enables us to derive these propositions in a somewhat more direct way than with the use of the risk-class assumption and the arbitrage proof of the MM paper. Instead, a model is substituted relating the maximization of stockholder expected utility to the selection of portfolios of assets to, finally, the financing and investment decisions within the corporation. A link will be provided between two branches of the field of finance that have so far been evolving more or less separately.

In Section II, the assumptions are enumerated and the equilibrium capital asset pricing model is presented. MM's Propositions I and II, the effects of

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1. The notable exception is the article by Lintner [13] which considered corporate capital budgeting questions in the context of a market equilibrium portfolio model. Lintner's treatment of this problem will be discussed in Section V.

2. Hirshleifer restated the Arrow-Debreu [1, 4] objects of choice in the classical Irving Fisher [7] framework, where the objects of choice are consumption or income bundles at explicit times and states-of-the-world. the financing decision on equity prices, are proved in Section III for the no corporate income tax case. Section IV is devoted to the corporate tax effect on this financing decision. A derivation and discussion of the cost of capital for investment decisions within the firm (MM's Proposition III) in the no-tax case are the topics of Section V. And in Section VI, the cost of capital considering corporate taxes is derived.

II. Assumptions and the Equilibrium Risk-Return Relationship

A. Assumptions

The assumptions are divided into two sets. The following are required for the portfolio-capital asset pricing model:⁸

1) There are perfect capital markets. This implies that information is available to all at no cost, there are no taxes and no transaction costs, and all assets are infinitely divisible. Also, all investors can borrow or lend at the same rate of interest and have the same portfolio opportunities.

2) Investors are risk-averters and maximize their expected utility of wealth at the end of their planning horizon or the one-period rate of return over this horizon.⁴ In addition, it is assumed that portfolios can be assessed solely by their expected rate of return and standard deviation of this rate of return. Of two portfolios with the same standard deviation, the criterion of choice would lead to the selection of that portfolio with the greater mean; and of two portfolios with the same expected rate of return, the investor would select the one with the smaller risk as measured by the standard deviation. This implies that either the investor's utility function is quadratic or that portfolio rates of return are multivariate normal.⁵

3) The planning horizon is the same for all investors and their portfolio decisions made at the same time.

4) All investors have identical estimates of expected rates of return and the standard deviations of these rates.⁶

In addition to these four assumptions, we shall require the following for the subsequent sections:

5) Expected bankruptcy or default risk associated with debt-financing, as well as the risk of interest rate and purchasing power fluctuation, are assumed to be negligible relative to variability risk on equity. Thus, the

3. The first two sections of Fama's paper [6] is recommended as the clearest exposition of this model for the homogeneous expectations case. The extension to the case of differing judgments by investors can be found in Bierwag and Grove [2] and Lintner [14, pp. 600-601]. We shall not use the heterogeneous expectations framework here since it will not add to the primary purpose of this paper and may only serve to take the focus away from our major concern.

4. The rate of return is defined as the change in wealth divided by the investor's initial wealth, where the change in wealth includes dividends and capital gains. Note that this is a one-period model, in common with Lintner's [13, 14] and in many respects with MM's [20, 21, 22].

5. See Tobin [27, pages 82-85] for a justification; the need for the restrictive normal probability distribution assumption is not strictly required, as Fama [5] has generalized much of the results of the Sharpe-Lintner model for other members of the stable class of distributions where the standard deviation does not exist. It can be further noted, as Lintner [13, pages 18-19] does, that Roy [24] has shown that investors who minimize the probability of disaster (who use the "safety-first" principle) will have roughly the same investment criterion for risky assets.

6. See footnote 3.

corporation is assumed to be able to borrow or lend at the same risk-free rate as the individual investor.

6) Dividend policy is assumed to have no effect on the market value of a firm's equity or cost of capital. Having made our initial assumption of perfect capital markets, it was shown by MM in [19] that this need not be an additional assumption as long as there is rational investor behavior and the financing and investment policies of the corporation can be considered independent. If assumption (5) is valid, this second requirement should be met.

7) Though future investment opportunities available to the firm at rates of return greater than the cost of capital undoubtedly are reflected in the current market price, we shall ignore them here. They can be considered a capitalized quantity independent of the issues raised by MM's three propositions as long as the firm has a long-run financing policy (if the financing mix affects the cost of capital) and if the marginal rate of return of a new investment (to be compared to the subsequently derived cost of capital) includes all, direct and indirect, contributions to cash flow provided by this investment.⁷

B. Asset Prices and Market Equilibrium

Represent the rate of return of a portfolio or risky asset by the random variable R. From assumption (2), the expected rate of return, E(R), and the standard deviation, $\sigma(R)$, of portfolios are the objects of choice; this leads to the formation, by each individual investor, of an efficient set of risky portfolios according to the principles provided by Markowitz [16, 17]. Introducing a riskless asset with a rate of return R_F leads to a new efficient set combining a single risky portfolio, M (which was on the previous efficient set), with various proportions of the risk-free asset (this includes borrowing as well as lending).

Because maximum expected utility for a risk-averter requires a tangency of his expected utility curve with this efficient set, and because all investors have the same expectations, risky portfolio M would be combined by all investors in some proportion with the riskless asset. And market equilibrium requires all outstanding risky assets to be held in the proportion of their market value to the total market value of all assets. This is the composition of portfolio M, henceforth called the market portfolio.

From this construct, the following Sharpe-Lintner-Mossin [25, 13, 14, 23] equilibrium relationship can be derived for any individual risky asset i in the market:⁸

$$E(R_{i}) = R_{F} + \frac{[E(R_{M}) - R_{F}]}{\sigma^{2}(R_{M})} \operatorname{cov} (R_{i}, R_{M})$$
(1)

7. This latter requirement is the issue raised by Miller in [18] on Lintner's growth papers [11, 12]. Lintner assumed that the indirect effects, such as shifting the firm's investment productivity schedule to a more profitable level in all future time periods, are the same for all projects and therefore do not have to be included in the marginal rate of return of the project under consideration. Instead, we are requiring that all effects and opportunities introduced by the acceptance of this project be taken into account explicitly in the marginal rate of return. For one practical method of doing this, see Magee [15].

8. See [6] for the derivation of equation (1).

Note that $\frac{E(R_M) - R_F}{\sigma^2(R_M)}$ is the same for all assets and can be viewed as a measure of market risk aversion, or the price of a dollar of risk. Substituting a constant λ for this expression in (1), we have:

$$E(R_i) = R_F + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_i, R_M)$$
(1a)

Equation (1a) supplies us with a formal market relationship between any asset's required rate of return and its individual risk, as measured by $cov(R_i, R_M)$.

III. THE FINANCING DECISION ASSUMING NO CORPORATE TAXES

A. Effect of Leverage on Stockholders' Equity

This section will deal with MM's Proposition I—the effects on equity value and perceived risk as a firm alters its capital structure. The quality of equity will no longer be the same and is directly dependent on the corporation's debtequity ratio. For this purpose, we have constructed the following: assume equilibrium exists and there is a corporation, A, with no debt in its capital structure. Defining S_A as the present equilibrium market value of the equity of this debt-free firm, $E(S_{AT})$ as the expected market value for this same firm one period later, E(div) as the expected dividends paid over this period, and $E(X_A)$ as expected earnings net of depreciation but prior to the deduction of interest and tax payments, assumptions (6) and (7) allow us to write the following relationship for the dollar return:

$$E(X_A) = E(div) + E(S_{AT}) - S_A.$$
 (2)

Employing the definition of the expected rate of return, we have:

$$E(R_{A}) \equiv \frac{E(\text{div}) + E(S_{AT}) - S_{A}}{S_{A}} = \frac{E(X_{A})}{S_{A}}$$
(3)

giving us a relation for the rate of return required by corporation A's shareholders.

Now assume that corporation A decides to alter its capital structure without changing any of its other policies. This implies its assets, both present and future, remain the same as before. All it decides to do is to simultaneously issue some debt (at the riskless rate, R_F) and purchase as much of its equity as it can with the proceeds. Let us denote the equity of this same real firm, after the issuance of debt, as B.⁹ The rate of return required by the remaining stockholders is given by adjusting (2), and thus (3):

$$E(R_B) = \frac{E(X_A) - R_F D_B}{S_B}$$
(4)

9. This construction can be readily extended to the cases where a firm already has debt and is considering either increasing or decreasing the proportion of debt in its capital structure. Also, if we rigidly honor the one-period planning horizon restriction, then the situation should be more precisely worded: equilibrium at t = 0 with equity A included and market price for risk λ . Firm A adds debt at $t = 0 + \varepsilon$ and general equilibrium restored immediately with market risk aversion remaining the same. This comparative statics framework will be used throughout this paper.

Two points concerning (4) should be emphasized. First, the earnings from assets is $E(X_A)$, since this is the same "real" firm as A. And secondly, the interest payments, R_FD_B , as noted in assumption (5), is not a random variable.

Next, from (1a), the equilibrium required rate of return-risk relationship is substituted into (3) and (4) to yield:¹⁰

$$R_{F} + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_{A}, R_{M}) = \frac{E(X_{A})}{S_{A}}$$
(3a)

$$R_{F} + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_{B}, R_{M}) = \frac{E(X_{A}) - R_{F}D_{B}}{S_{B}}$$
(4a)

Intuitively, equity B should be riskier than A since its dollar return is a residual after fixed interest commitments are paid. Thus, $cov(R_B, R_M)$ should be greater than $cov(R_A, R_M)$. In addition, the expected return to the two equities are different so that it is not immediately clear what the relationship between S_A and S_B should be in equilibrium. To pursue this point, rearrange (3a) and (4a) to isolate $E(X_A)$ and equate the two relations:

$$S_{A}[R_{F} + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_{A}, R_{M})] = S_{B} \left[\lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_{B}, R_{M}) + R_{F} \left(1 + \frac{D_{B}}{S_{B}} \right) \right]$$
(5)

The next step is to note the definition of the covariance:

$$\operatorname{cov} (\mathbf{R}_{A}, \mathbf{R}_{M}) = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \left[\frac{\mathbf{X}_{A}}{\mathbf{S}_{A}} - \mathbf{E} \left(\frac{\mathbf{X}_{A}}{\mathbf{S}_{A}} \right) \right] [\mathbf{R}_{M} - \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{R}_{M})] \right\}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\mathbf{S}_{A}} \operatorname{cov} (\mathbf{X}_{A}, \mathbf{R}_{M})$$
(6)

Similarly:11

cov
$$(R_B, R_M) = \frac{1}{S_B} cov (X_A, R_M).$$
 (7)

10. λ is not strictly equal in (3a) and (4a) since one equity, B, has been substituted for another, A. Because λ includes the effects of *all* capital assets, the substitution of B for A should have a negligible effect on the value of the market price of risk.

11. If the "feel" for the covariance of asset earnings with R_M is difficult, we can use the definition:

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{M}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}=1}^{\mathbf{T}} \frac{\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{k}}}{\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{T}}} \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{T}}} \sum_{\mathbf{k}=1}^{\mathbf{T}} \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{k}}$$

where S_T is the market value of all capital assets and T the total number of risky assets, k, outstanding. Then:

$$\operatorname{cov}(X_{A}, R_{M}) = \frac{1}{S_{T}} \sum_{k=1}^{T} \operatorname{cov}(X_{A}, X_{k}).$$
 (6a)

Substituting (6a) into (6) and (7), respectively, yields:

$$\operatorname{cov}\left(\mathbf{R}_{\underline{A}},\mathbf{R}_{\underline{M}}\right) = \frac{1}{S_{\underline{A}}S_{\mathrm{T}}} \sum_{k=1}^{\mathrm{T}} \operatorname{cov}\left(\mathbf{X}_{\underline{A}},\mathbf{X}_{\underline{k}}\right) \tag{6b}$$

$$\operatorname{cov}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{B}},\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{M}}) = \frac{1}{S_{\mathrm{B}}S_{\mathrm{T}}} \sum_{k=1}^{\mathrm{T}} \operatorname{cov}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{A}},\mathbf{X}_{k})$$
 (7a)

Substituting (6) and (7) into (5), we find:

$$S_{A}\left[\frac{\lambda}{S_{A}} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, R_{M}) + R_{F}\right] = S_{B}\left[\frac{\lambda}{S_{B}} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, R_{M}) + R_{F}\left(1 + \frac{D_{B}}{S_{B}}\right)\right]$$

which reduces to:

$$S_A = S_B + D_B \tag{8}$$

To complete our proof of MM's Proposition I, the relationship between V, the total market value of the firm, and earnings is required. Since by definition,

$$V = S_{B} + D_{B}$$

$$V = S_{A} = \frac{E(X_{A})}{E(R_{A})}$$
(9)

then from (8) and (3):

The total value of the firm depends only on the expected earnings from its assets, the uncertainty of this earning (expressed by $cov(R_A, R_M)$), and the market factors λ and R_F . The financing mix is irrelevant, given our assumptions.

Having established the entity theory of value without the use of the homogeneous risk-class assumption, we are now in a position to discuss a switching mechanism to replace the MM arbitrage operation. Substituting (4) for $E(R_i)$ and (7a) for cov (R_i , R_M) in (1a), and noting that the number of shares, n_B , times the price per share, P_B , is equal to S_B , we obtain for λ :

$$\lambda = \frac{[E(X_{A}) - R_{F}D_{B} - n_{B}R_{F}P_{B}]}{\frac{1}{S_{T}} \sum_{k=1}^{T} \text{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}$$
(10)

Equation (10) is meant to emphasize the point that the ratio of the expected return (over and above the risk-free return) to the risk of any equity must be a constant and equal to λ , the market price per unit of risk, in equilibrium. Thus if P_B should, for any reason, rise above its equilibrium price, then the right-hand side of (10) would fall below λ . Investors would have an incentive to sell security B and buy any other outstanding asset from which they could obtain λ . This switching would drive down the price of B and restore the equality (10) requires in equilibrium.

Alternatively, if P_B should fall below its equilibrium price, the right-hand side of (10) would rise above λ . Since the excess rate of return for risk is now greater than what is obtainable on all other assets, investors would bid for B, driving up P_B . Thus, this switching operation is implicitly being substituted for the MM arbitrage operation in the proof presented here.¹²

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Thus we have an expression for the covariance between dollar returns. Whether we use (6) or (6b) and (7) or (7a) makes no difference since the covariance terms cancel out in the following step. The important point is the weights, $1/S_A$ and $1/S_B$, multiplying the covariances.

^{12.} If, during the switching process prior to the restoration of equilibrium, an investor finds himself not at his maximum utility point, he would also rearrange the proportion of his riskless asset and his portfolio M.

B. Leverage and the Expected Rate of Return

λ

Having derived (8), to find the effect of leverage on the expected rate of return (MM's Proposition II) is merely a matter of arithmetic manipulation. Recalling that equity B is the same physical firm as A except that debt is in its capital structure, the following equilibrium conditions can be noted by substituting (6) and (7) into (1a):

$$E(R_{A}) = R_{F} + \frac{\lambda}{S_{A}} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, R_{M})$$
(11)

$$E(R_B) = R_F + \frac{\lambda}{S_B} \operatorname{cov} (X_A, R_M).$$
(11a)

Subtracting (11) from (11a), and using our result (8), we have:

$$E(R_B) - E(R_A) = \lambda \operatorname{cov} (X_A, R_M) \left[\frac{D_B}{S_B S_A} \right].$$
(12)

From (11):

$$cov (X_A, R_M) = S_A[E(R_A) - R_F].$$
 (11b)

And substituting (11b) in (12), we obtain MM's Proposition II:

$$E(R_B) = E(R_A) + [E(R_A) - R_F] \left(\frac{D_B}{S_B}\right).$$
(13)

That is, the capitalization rate for a firm's equity, or the rate of return required by investors, increases linearly with the firm's debt-equity ratio.

IV. THE FINANCING DECISION WITH CORPORATE TAXES

Maintaining the framework of Sections II and III, the corporate tax case follows without difficulty. The rate of return, R, must be defined on an after corporate income tax basis so that individual investors will now select their portfolios with respect to after-tax expected rates of return and the standard deviation of these after-tax rates of return. Otherwise, the equilibrium risk-rate of return relationship presented in Section II will not be altered.¹³

Consideration of the firm's financing decision requires only the modification of equations (2), (3a), and (4a) to take into account the corporate tax:

$$E[X_A(1-\tau)] = E(div) + E(S_{AT}) - S_A$$
(2a)

$$E(R_{A}) = \frac{E[X_{A}(1-\tau)]}{S_{A}} = R_{F} + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_{A}, R_{M})$$
(3b)

$$E(R_{B}) = \frac{E[(X_{A} - R_{F}D_{B})(1 - \tau)]}{S_{B}} = R_{F} + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_{B}, R_{M})$$
(4b)

where τ is the corporate tax rate and equities A and B refer to the same real firm—A with no debt and B with some debt in the capital structure.¹⁴

13. Problems of Pareto optimality will not be considered here.

14. See footnote 10.

Rearranging (3b) and (4b) to isolate the tax-adjusted expected asset earnings, $(1-\tau) E(X_A)$, and equating the two relations, we obtain:

$$S_{A}[R_{F} + \lambda \operatorname{cov}(R_{A}, R_{M})] = S_{B} \left\{ \lambda \operatorname{cov}(R_{B}, R_{M}) + R_{F} \left[1 + \frac{D_{B}}{S_{B}} (1 - \tau) \right] \right\}.$$
(14)

As in the no-tax case, investigation of the two covariance terms is required next, which yields:

$$\operatorname{cov}\left(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{A}},\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{M}}\right) = \frac{(1-\tau)}{S_{\mathbf{A}}}\operatorname{cov}\left(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{A}},\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{M}}\right) \tag{15}$$

and¹⁵

$$\operatorname{cov} (\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{B}}, \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{M}}) = \frac{(1 - \tau)}{S_{\mathrm{B}}} \operatorname{cov} (\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{A}}, \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{M}}).$$
(16)

Substitution of (15) and (16) into (14) gives us:

$$S_A = S_B + (1 - \tau) D_B.$$
 (17)

Since the total market value of a firm can be expressed as:

 $V = S_B + D_B$

we have from (17):

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{A}} + \tau \mathbf{D}. \tag{18}$$

Therefore, without debt, the total value of the firm is simply S_A . As the corporation increases its leverage, the aggregate equity value for the remaining shareholders increases by τD , the government subsidy given to debt financing through tax-deductible interest payments. The entity value of the firm no longer holds.

Since the first half of (3b) gives us a relationship for S_A , we can express (18) as:

$$V = \frac{(1 - \tau) E(X_{A})}{E(R_{A})} + \tau D.$$
(19)

Again, MM's result is reproduced in a market equilibrium setting.¹⁶

V. Investment Analysis and the Cost of Capital Assuming No Corporate Taxes

It was stated in assumption (2) that investors maximize their expected utility of terminal wealth. Corporation managers can increase their shareholders' utility by investing in new projects within the firm such that their stock price would rise as a result of this decision. If the stock, in addition, should change its risk characteristic, cov (R_i , R_M), the stockholder can always sell his equity in the firm, realize the gain, and be better off than before.

^{15.} See footnote 11.

^{16.} The effect of leverage on the expected equity rate of return (MM's Proposition II) for the corporate tax case can be derived in a manner analogous to that used in Section III B.

Because his wealth is now larger than originally anticipated, he is able to reach a higher utility position. Thus, to be consistent with the portfolio-asset pricing model, the criterion for capital budgeting decisions must ensure that the change in equity value, as a result of the project selection, will at least be larger than any new equity required to finance this project.

Defining dI as the purchase cost of the incremental investment and dE.F. as the new equity (either new stock issues or retained earnings) required to finance this investment, the capital budgeting criterion can be written as:

$$\frac{\mathrm{dS}}{\mathrm{dI}} \ge \frac{\mathrm{dE} \cdot \mathrm{F} \cdot}{\mathrm{dI}}$$
(20)

for the project, dI, to be acceptable.¹⁷

A. Derivation of the Cost of Capital

Having derived the following valuation relationship in Section III A,

$$V = \frac{E(X_A)}{E(R_A)} = \frac{E(X_A)}{R_F + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_A, R_M)}$$

it can be shown that:¹⁸

$$V = \frac{E(X_A)}{R_F} - \frac{[E(X_T) - R_F S_T] \sum_k \text{cov} (X_A, X_k)}{R_F \sigma^2(X_T)}$$
(21)

where X_T is the sum of dollar earnings from all risky capital assets combined. Furthermore, (21) is equivalent to:¹⁹

$$V = \frac{E(X_{A})}{R_{F}} - \frac{\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \sum_{k} \text{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}{R_{F}}.$$
 (21a)

17. It can be shown that this criterion is the same as the one proposed by MM, i.e., $\frac{dV}{dI} \ge 1$,

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{V}}{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{I}} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{S}}{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{I}} + \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{D}}{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{I}} \text{ and } \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{E}\cdot\mathbf{F}\cdot}{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{I}} + \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{D}}{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{I}} = 1.$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{M}}) - \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{F}}}{2}$$

 $\sigma^2(\mathbf{R}_M)$

and substituting
$$R_{M} = \sum_{k=1}^{T} \left(\frac{S_{k}}{S_{T}}\right) \left(\frac{X_{k}}{S_{k}}\right) = \frac{X_{T}}{S_{T}}, \quad \lambda = \frac{S_{T} [E(X_{T}) - R_{F}S_{T}]}{\sigma^{2}(X_{T})}$$

And from footnote 11, $cov (R_{A}, R_{M}) = \frac{1}{S_{A}S_{T}} \sum_{k=1}^{T} cov (X_{A}, X_{k}),$

so that substitution and rearrangement yields (21).

In this section, the effects of the firm's investment on all of the variables will be explicitly noted—this will even include the market variables λ , S_T , and X_T . If we were to remain strictly within our initial framework, any new investment must only be a combination of what is already available in the market. Ignoring the effects on the market variables will be discussed at the end of this section.

19. This is the same as Lintner's [13, page 26] equation (29). The subtraction of $\sum \text{cov} (X_A, X_k)$ from expected earnings adjusts for risk.

$$\frac{2}{S_m} \frac{2}{k} \cos(\theta)$$

Since the market value of firm A's equity is part of the market value of all capital assets combined, S_T, (21a) is still not a completely reduced form. Defining:

$$S_{\mathbf{T}}' = \sum_{k \neq A}^{T} S_k = market value of all equity except A,$$

then $S_T = S'_T + S_A$.

Substituting this in (21) yields:

$$S = \frac{E(X_{A}) \sigma^{2}(X_{T}) - [E(X_{T}) - R_{F}(S_{T}' - D)] \sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}{R_{F}[\sigma^{2}(X_{T}) - \sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})]} - D.$$
(21b)

Applying the capital budgeting criterion (20) to (21b), solving for the dollar return on the marginal investment, and noting that $\frac{dD}{dI} + \frac{dE \cdot F \cdot}{dI} = 1$, we obtain:20

$$\frac{\mathrm{dE}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathtt{A}})}{\mathrm{dI}} \ge \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{F}} + \frac{\lambda}{\mathbf{S}_{\mathrm{T}}} \left[\frac{\mathrm{d}\sum_{\mathtt{k}} \mathrm{cov}\left(\mathbf{X}_{\mathtt{A}}, \mathbf{X}_{\mathtt{k}}\right)}{\mathrm{dI}} - \mathbf{Z} \frac{\mathrm{d}\,\sigma^{2}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{T}})}{\mathrm{dI}} \right] \\ + \mathbf{Z} \left[\frac{\mathrm{dE}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{T}})}{\mathrm{dI}} - \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{F}} \left(1 + \frac{\mathrm{dS}_{\mathrm{T}'}}{\mathrm{dI}} - \frac{\mathrm{dD}}{\mathrm{dI}} \right) \right] \quad (22)$$

where Z is defined as

$$\frac{\sum\limits_{k} \operatorname{cov} \left(X_{A}, X_{k} \right)}{\sigma^{2}(X_{T})} = \frac{V}{S_{T}} \left[\frac{E(R_{A}) - R_{F}}{E(R_{M}) - R_{F}} \right].$$

The next step is to consider the effect of this incremental investment on the expected value and variance of X_{T} ²¹ and solve for the dollar return on

20. The term, $\frac{dD}{dI}$, in (22) does not mean that the form of financing will affect the cost of capital. It appears only because a completely general equilibrium framework is not considered here-we neglected the condition that ex ante borrowing must equal ex ante lending in the bond market so that debt floated by firm A would affect R_F and other parameters. This is truly a thirdorder effect which can be neglected. It will also be seen later that the $\frac{dD}{dT}$ term is unimportant. 21. These are: $\frac{\mathrm{dE}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{T}})}{\mathrm{dI}} = \frac{\mathrm{dE}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{T}}')}{\mathrm{dI}} + \frac{\mathrm{dE}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{A}})}{\mathrm{dI}}$ and $\frac{d\sigma^{2}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{T}})}{d\mathbf{I}} = \frac{d\sigma^{2}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{T}}')}{d\mathbf{I}} + \frac{d\sigma^{2}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{A}})}{d\mathbf{I}} + 2\frac{d\operatorname{cov}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{T}}', \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{A}})}{d\mathbf{I}}$ $= \frac{d\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov}(\mathbf{X}_{A}, \mathbf{X}_{k})}{d\mathbf{I}} + \frac{d\sigma^{2}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{T}}')}{d\mathbf{I}} + \frac{d\operatorname{cov}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{T}}', \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{A}})}{d\mathbf{I}}$

where $X_{T} = \sum_{k \neq A} X_{k} =$ dollar earnings from all capital assets except equity A.

the investment, $\frac{dE(X_A)}{dI}$, commonly called the marginal internal rate of return, on the left-hand side of the inequality. The assumption that investors maximize their expected utility leads to the criterion that the firm should make capital budgeting decisions that ensure $\frac{dS}{dI} \ge \frac{dE \cdot F \cdot}{dI}$, which in turn leads to the criterion that the expected marginal internal rate of return of a project must be larger than some quantity. This quantity, the cut-off rate for the marginal investment, or the cost of capital, is:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{cost of capital} &= \frac{R_{\mathrm{F}}}{1-Z} + \\ & \frac{\lambda}{S_{\mathrm{T}}} \left\{ \frac{d\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} \left(X_{\mathrm{A}}, X_{k}\right)}{dI} - \left(\frac{Z}{1-Z}\right) \left[\frac{d\sigma^{2}(X_{\mathrm{T}}')}{dI} + \frac{d\operatorname{cov} \left(X_{\mathrm{T}}', X_{\mathrm{A}}\right)}{dI}\right] \right\} \\ & + \left(\frac{Z}{1-Z}\right) \left[\frac{dE(X_{\mathrm{T}}')}{dI} - R_{\mathrm{F}} \left(1 + \frac{dS_{\mathrm{T}}'}{dI} - \frac{dD}{dI}\right)\right] \end{aligned}$$
(23)

At this point, some approximations will be made.²² Notice that in the denominator of the definition of Z is S_T , the aggregate market value of all capital assets combined (which includes stocks, real estate, insurance, etc.), a very large sum. Thus the last half of the second term of (23) can be assumed to be negligible since it is multiplied by, among other things, $\frac{1}{S_T^2}$. In addition, the change due to an incremental investment in Firm A of the expected earnings and the market value of all assets other than A, $\frac{dE(X_T')}{dI}$ and $\frac{dS'_T}{dI}$, will be assumed to be zero when multiplied by $\frac{Z}{1-Z}$, itself a very small fraction. Finally, since $\frac{dD}{dI}$ is bounded by one and zero, the term $(\frac{Z}{1-Z}) R_F \frac{dD}{dI}$ will be neglected. Therefore, we are left with the approximated cost of capital expression:

$$\operatorname{cost of capital} = R_{F} + \frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \left[\frac{d \sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}{dI} \right].$$
(24)

B. Interpretation of the Cost of Capital

Comparing (24) to the valuation equation (21a), suggests an interpretation of our derived cost of capital. If the investment is riskless, i.e., does not increase the adjustment term,

22. The reason for presenting the full cost of capital equation instead of assuming away these feedback effects from the beginning is to allow the reader to judge for himself the validity of these approximations (a procedure not followed by Lintner [13] and which will be discussed shortly).

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$$\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}}\sum_{k} cov (X_{A}, X_{k}),$$

applied by the market (in equation 21a) to account for the risk of the firm's total earnings, then the expected marginal internal rate of return of this investment must only surpass the risk-free rate of interest. By not increasing this adjustment term in (21a),

$$\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \left[\frac{d \sum_{k} \text{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}{dI} \right]$$

must be zero for the investment. Therefore, the second half of the cost of capital equation takes into account the effect of the specific investment on this market risk-adjustment, which is then subtracted from the new expected earnings prior to being capitalized at the riskless rate to yield the new total market value of the firm. The cost of capital is thus composed of the riskless rate plus a premium for the risk of the particular project.

We can arrive at this same interpretation by noticing that:

$$\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} = \frac{V_{A}[E(R_{A}) - R_{F}]}{\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}$$
(25)

so that the risk premium in the cost of capital expression (24) is:

$$[E(R_{A}) - R_{F}] \begin{bmatrix} \frac{d \sum_{k} \text{ cov } (X_{A}, X_{k})}{\frac{dI}{\sum_{k} \text{ cov } (X_{A}, X_{k})}} \end{bmatrix}$$
(25a)

where $[E(R_A) - R_F]$ can be viewed as the risk premium prior to the acceptance of the project in question. Thus to obtain a project's appropriate risk premium, this existing premium is multiplied by the fractional change in the firm's risk per dollar of invested capital caused by the investment.²³

Having explained the meaning of our cost of capital, we can compare it to the one proposed by MM. They suggest using the capitalization rate for a debt-free firm; that is:

$$E(R_A) = R_F + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_A, R_M).$$

The use of $E(R_A)$ as the cost of capital is appropriate for any investment that preserves their valuation relationship

$$V_{A} = \frac{E(X_{A})}{E(R_{A})} = \frac{E(X_{A})}{R_{F} + \left(\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{V_{A}}\right) \sum_{k} \text{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}$$
(26)

23. This discussion of the cost of capital, equation (24), gives us an interpretation of our previous approximations. All terms that were approximated to be zero were indeed second-order effects due to changes in λ caused by the investment and the inclusion of firm A's equity in S_T .

after the investment is accepted. Assuming that R_F , λ , and S_T are not affected by capital budgeting decisions in firm A, the type of investment that will maintain the above relation is restricted to one with the following characteristic:²⁴

$$\frac{d\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}{dI} = \frac{\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} (X_{A}, X_{k})}{V}.$$
(27)

The right-hand side of (27) is a measure of the existing risk per dollar invested. Therefore, we can conclude that MM's cost of capital is applicable for all new investments that have the same effect on risk per dollar invested (the left-hand side of (27)) as existing assets. Because of their use of the equivalent risk-class concept to derive the cost of capital, this conclusion is not surprising. $E(R_A)$ can be used as the cost of capital only for pure scale or non-diversifying investments that do not change the firm's risk class.

Now with a market equilibrium framework developed, we are able to obtain the cost of capital for all investments, scale-changing or otherwise. To show that our cost of capital expression will be the same as MM's result for a nondiversifying project, substitute (27) in (24) to obtain:

cost of capital =
$$R_F + \frac{\lambda}{S_T V} \sum_k \text{cov} (X_A, X_k)$$

= $R_F + \lambda \text{ cov} (R_A, R_M)$.

Lintner [13], in contrast to MM, required his investments to meet a much more stringent condition. He assumed that the change in the covariance of firm A's earnings with the earnings of all other firms caused by the marginal investment is zero; that is,

24. The property of an investment that will preserve the linear homogeneity of (26) so that $E(R_A)$ is the correct cost of capital, can be found by differentiating the right-hand side of (26) with respect to dI:

$$\begin{split} & \left[R_{\rm F} + \frac{\lambda}{S_{\rm T}V} \sum_{\rm k} \operatorname{cov}({\rm X}_{\rm A}, {\rm X}_{\rm k}) \right] \frac{\mathrm{dE}({\rm X}_{\rm A})}{\mathrm{dI}} - {\rm E}({\rm X}_{\rm A}) \frac{\lambda}{S_{\rm T}} \, \mathrm{d} \left[\frac{1}{V} \sum_{\rm k} \operatorname{cov}({\rm X}_{\rm A}, {\rm X}_{\rm k}) \right] \\ & \frac{\mathrm{d} {\rm V}}{\mathrm{dI}} = \frac{\mathrm{d} {\rm I}}{\left[R_{\rm F} + \frac{\lambda}{S_{\rm T}V} \sum_{\rm k} \operatorname{cov}({\rm X}_{\rm A}, {\rm X}_{\rm k}) \right]^2} \\ & \text{Only if } \frac{\mathrm{d} \left[\frac{1}{V} \sum_{\rm k} \operatorname{cov}({\rm X}_{\rm A}, {\rm X}_{\rm k}) \right]}{\mathrm{dI}} = \frac{V \frac{\mathrm{d} \sum_{\rm k} \operatorname{cov}({\rm X}_{\rm A}, {\rm X}_{\rm k})}{\mathrm{d} {\rm I}} - \left[\sum_{\rm k} \operatorname{cov}({\rm X}_{\rm A}, {\rm X}_{\rm k}) \right] \frac{\mathrm{d} {\rm V}}{\mathrm{d} {\rm I}}}{V^2} = 0 \end{split}$$

will MM's cost of capital be appropriate. Setting the numerator in the last expression equal to zero and noting that the cost of the investment, dI, must be financed by debt and/or equity so that dI = dS + dD = dV, condition (27) in the text is obtained.

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$$\frac{d\sum_{k\neq A} \operatorname{cov} (X_A, X_k)}{dI} = ^{25}$$

Then his cost of capital, in our context, becomes:

cost of capital (Lintner) =
$$R_F + \frac{\lambda}{S_T} \frac{d \sigma^2(X_A)}{dI}$$
.

To indicate the implication of this assumption, rearrange our (25) to obtain:

$$\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} \left(X_{A}, X_{k} \right) = S_{T} \frac{V_{A}[E(R_{A}) - R_{F}]}{\lambda}$$
(25a)

which shows how large the sum of covariances must be, considering the magnitude of S_T . To suggest that the risk in all future projects is only the effect on the firm's variance is to consider only a very small part of the total riskiness of the investment. If we substitute $\sigma^2(X_A)$ for $\sum_{\kappa} \text{cov}(X_A, X_{\kappa})$ in (25a), the equality would hardly remain. As a result, Lintner's cost of capital is much smaller than that which would have been used for the firm had it started from scratch today. For the average investment made by the average firm, it would seem that MM's cost of capital is much more accurate than Lintner's suggested approach (even disregarding MM's proviso that it be applied only to scale-changing investments). Lintner's [13] attack on MM's work appears unjustified.²⁶

VI. THE EFFECT OF CORPORATE TAXES ON THE COST OF CAPITAL

A. Derivation of the Cost of Capital

Consideration of corporate income taxes does not require us to alter the procedure followed in Section V. The valuation formula for this case can be expressed as:²⁷

25. Lintner [13, page 23] justifies this assumption by referring to Sharpe's [26] diagonal model, whereby all assets are dependent on a common underlying market factor, D. Then:

$$\begin{array}{ll} R_k = \alpha_k + \beta_k R_D + \varepsilon_k \\ R_A = \alpha_A + \beta_A R_D + \varepsilon_A \end{array} \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, T; \quad k \neq A \end{array}$$

and cov $(\varepsilon_A, \varepsilon_k) = \text{cov} (\varepsilon_A, R_D) = \text{cov} (\varepsilon_k, R_D) = 0$ are specified. Lintner then makes the critical assumption that the random disturbance term, ε_A , is all that can be (or is) affected by capital budgeting decisions in firm A. Then of course, cov $(R_A, R_k) = \beta_A \beta_k \sigma^2(R_D)$ and is independent of changes in $E(\varepsilon_A)$ and $\sigma(\varepsilon_A)$. But why cannot new investments affect β_A , as did previous investments? Otherwise, how did β_A get there initially? Lintner, alone, should not be criticized on this point. Many others have suggested using the Markowitz portfolio approach on the real assets of the firm and therefore ignoring all market effects on risk—for the latest example, see Cohen and Elton [3].

26. Having assumed the major part of the risk effect of a new investment to be zero, Lintner goes on to emphasize such minor points as the covariance of an investment's earnings with concurrent projects' earnings. And just for this, he suggests using a programming approach! Lintner also seems to have forgotten that his (and our and MM's) model is strictly valid for only one horizon period (our assumption 2) when criticizing MM and when discussing the effects of changes in R_F . Theoretically, as soon as a new investment is made by the firm, it must be financed and a new equilibrium (and parameters) must be determined. This is truly a major disadvantage and whether or not it invalidates the model for practical purposes awaits empirical results.

27. Starting with equation (19), we have:

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$$S = \frac{(1 - \tau) E(X_{A})}{R_{F}} + \tau D - \frac{\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \sum_{k} \text{cov} (\tau X_{A}, \tau X_{k})}{R_{F}} - D \qquad (28)$$

2

where after-tax asset earnings, $(1 - \tau)X$, is denoted by the left-hand subscript τ on X.

Applying the capital budgeting criterion, $\frac{dS}{dI} \ge \frac{dE \cdot F \cdot}{dI}$ to (28), rearrang-

ing, and noting that $\frac{dD}{dI} + \frac{dE \cdot F \cdot}{dI} = 1$, we obtain:

$$(1-\tau) \frac{\mathrm{dE}(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{A}})}{\mathrm{dI}} \ge R_{\mathrm{F}} \left(1-\tau \frac{\mathrm{dD}}{\mathrm{dI}}\right) + \frac{\lambda}{S_{\mathrm{T}}} \left[\frac{\mathrm{d}\sum_{k} \mathrm{cov}\left(\tau \mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{A}}, \tau \mathbf{X}_{k}\right)}{\mathrm{dI}}\right] (29)$$

The left-hand side of (29) is the after-tax expected marginal internal rate of return of an investment and it must be at least equal to the right-hand side, otherwise stockholders' wealth will not be maximized. Therefore, the after-tax cost of capital is:

$$\operatorname{cost of capital} = R_{F} \left(1 - \tau \frac{\mathrm{dD}}{\mathrm{dI}} \right) + \frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \left[\frac{\mathrm{d} \sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} \left(\tau X_{A}, \tau X_{k} \right)}{\mathrm{dI}} \right]. \quad (30)$$

We can interpret this result by comparing it to (28). First, consider a risk $d\sum_{k} cov (\tau X_{A}, \tau X_{k})$ less project; then --------- = 0. Its after-tax marginal internal rate of return must be greater than only the risk-free rate less the tax subsidy given to debt financing in order for the present shareholders' equity to increase. The tax subsidy is the product of the dollar interest cost, $R_F \frac{dD}{dI}$, and

the tax rate, τ . Thus, the cost of capital for a riskless project is $R_F - \tau R_F \frac{dD}{dI}$,

the answer provided by (30). Next, consider a project that has som

s

Next, consider a project that has some risk. It will, in addition to the costs discussed for the riskless project, affect the risk adjustment term in (28). The last term in our cost of capital relation clearly considers the investment's impact on this term.

$$=\frac{(1-\tau) E(X_{A})}{E(R_{A})} + \tau D - D = \frac{(1-\tau) E(X_{A})}{R_{F} + \lambda \operatorname{cov} (R_{A}, R_{M})} + \tau D - D$$

where the subscript A represents the firm if it did not have any debt and the R's are on an after-tax basis. Since

$$\operatorname{cov}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{A}},\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{M}}) = \frac{1}{S_{\mathrm{A}}S_{\mathrm{T}}} \sum_{\mathrm{k}}^{\Sigma} \operatorname{cov}(_{\tau}\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{A}},_{\tau}\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{k}})$$

and

$$S_A = V - \tau D = S - \tau D + D,$$

equation (28) is obtained. Also, the comments made in Section VA are recognized, so that we shall henceforth ignore the effects of dI on the market variables λ , S_T , and X_T .

This result can be compared again to the MM cost of capital. They applied the capital budgeting criterion, $\frac{dV}{dI} \ge 1$, to our equation (19), to obtain:²⁸

cost of capital (MM) =
$$[E(R_{A})] \left(1 - \tau \frac{dD}{dI}\right)$$

= $R_{F} \left(1 - \tau \frac{dD}{dI}\right) + \frac{\lambda \left(1 - \tau \frac{dD}{dI}\right)}{S_{T}S_{A}} \sum_{k} cov (\tau X_{A}, \tau X_{k})$ (31)

An investment which will preserve the linear homogeneity of (19) so that (31) will be its cost of capital must satisfy the following condition:²⁹

$$\frac{d\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A}, {}_{\tau} X_{k} \right)}{dS_{A}} = \frac{\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A}, {}_{\tau} X_{k} \right)}{S_{A}}$$
(32)

As in the no-tax case, a project with this property is one that merely changes the scale of the firm. Assuming that equity was the sole source of previous capital, the right-hand side of (32) defines the risk per dollar already invested in the corporation. New investments must have this same ratio for MM's cost of capital to be applicable. In (32), proportional changes in risk are expressed on a pure equity basis; otherwise the consequence of the debt tax subsidy on effective capital required to finance the project would not be taken into consideration.

To show that MM's result is a special case of the cost of capital derived here, the relationship between the purchase cost of the investment, dI, and the effective capital required, dS_A , allows us to express (32) as:³⁰

$$\frac{d\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov}\left({}_{\tau}X_{A}, {}_{\tau}X_{k}\right)}{dI} = \frac{\left(1 - \tau \frac{dD}{dI}\right)\sum_{k} \operatorname{cov}\left({}_{\tau}X_{A}, {}_{\tau}X_{k}\right)}{S_{A}}$$
(32a)

so that MM's cost of capital is obtained when (32a) is substituted in (30).

B. Suggestions for Estimating the Cost of Capital

Nothing will be added to MM's recommendation concerning the financing of specific projects. The long-run target debt ratio, L*, for the firm's capital structure should be recognized as the financing mix for all of the firm's invest-

- 28. See reference [20] or [22].
- 29. The same procedure described in footnote 24 is used to obtain equation (32).
- 30. Since dI must be financed with debt and/or equity, then $dI = dS + dD \equiv dV$. And from (18), we have $dS_A = dV \tau dD$, so that

$$dS_{A} = dI - \tau dD = dI \left(1 - \tau \frac{dD}{dI} \right).$$

Substituting this last expression in (32) results in (32a).

ments regardless of how any individual project is financed. Then, $\frac{dD}{dI} = L^*$, and (30) can be expressed as:

cost of capital =
$$R_F(1 - \tau L^*) + \frac{\lambda}{S_T} \left[\frac{d \sum_k \text{cov} (\tau X_A, \tau X_k)}{dI} \right]$$
 (30a)

For small or nondiversifying investments, it is proposed that management assume that each effective invested dollar of the new project, dS_A , affects the covariance of the corporation's earnings with all other earnings as the average effective dollar of the corporation's existing assets, S_A , affects this covariance. Then MM's cost of capital can be used.

Major investments, in contrast to those discussed above, require a direct solution of (30a). For the risk premium, we can note the following equivalent forms:

$$\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \left[\frac{d \sum_{k} \operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A}, {}_{\tau} X_{k} \right)}{dI} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \frac{d \operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A}, {}_{\tau} X_{T} \right)}{dI}$$

$$= \frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \left[\operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A0} + {}_{\tau} X_{A1}, {}_{\tau} X_{T} + {}_{\tau} X_{A1} \right) - \operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A0}, {}_{\tau} X_{T} \right) \right]$$

$$= \lambda \operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A1}, R_{M} \right) + \frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} \left[\operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A0}, {}_{\tau} X_{A1} \right) + \sigma^{2} ({}_{\tau} X_{A1} \right) \right]$$
(30b)

where $_{\tau}X_{A0}$, $_{\tau}X_{A1}$, and $_{\tau}X_{T}$ are defined as tax-adjusted earnings from firm A's existing assets, from the new investment under consideration, and from all capital assets in the market, respectively.³¹

Use of the Sharpe [26] diagonal model is possible in estimating the project's major risk component, $\lambda \operatorname{cov}(_{\tau}X_{A1}, R_{M})$, if the rate of return of a value-weighted index, such as the S & P Index, can be assumed to be a "good" proxy for R_{M} and the systematic risk in $_{\tau}X_{A1}$ can be explained by a simple linear relationship with R_{M} .³² Then:

31. For completeness, we should consider the covariance of the tax-adjusted earnings of project 1 with all the other projects, n, included in the year's capital budget. Then to (30b) must be added

$$\frac{\lambda}{S_{T}} [2 \sum_{n} \operatorname{cov} (\tau X_{A1}, \tau X_{n})].$$

However, this term, as well as cov $({}_{\tau}X_{A0}, {}_{\tau}X_{A1})$ and $\sigma^2 ({}_{\tau}X_{A1})$, contributes very little to the cost of capital risk premium because it is multiplied by $\frac{\lambda}{S_T}$. In view of this small effect and that a programming approach is required (since this covariance is not known until the entire capital budget is determined simultaneously), we shall disregard it.

32. We are not assuming that all of the k capital assets are related to R_M by (33). Therefore, the comments made by Fama [6] on the Sharpe-Lintner conflict do not apply to the less restrictive model employed here. The Journal of Finance

$$_{\tau}X_{A1} = a + bR_{M} + \varepsilon \tag{33}$$

where a and b are parameters and $E(\varepsilon) = cov(R_M, \varepsilon) = 0$. Applying (33) to the definition of the covariance, we have:

$$\begin{split} \lambda \operatorname{cov} \left({}_{\tau} X_{A1}, R_{M} \right) &= \lambda \operatorname{E} \left\{ \left[\operatorname{b} R_{M} + \varepsilon - \operatorname{b} \operatorname{E} (R_{M}) \right] \left[R_{M} - \operatorname{E} (R_{M}) \right] \\ &= \lambda \operatorname{b} \sigma^{2} (R_{M}) \\ &= \operatorname{b} \left[\operatorname{E} (R_{M}) - R_{F} \right] \end{split}$$

so that b and $E(R_M)$ are all that must be estimated.

VII. CONCLUSION

Two major issues of corporation finance, the financing and investment decisions of the firm, have been analyzed in this paper in the framework of the Sharpe-Lintner-Mossin market equilibrium capital asset pricing model, itself an extension of the Markowitz-Tobin portfolio model. The effects of the financing decision on aggregate equity values were the topics of Sections III and IV. The famous MM Propositions I and II were found to hold when put to the market equilibrium model, both in the no tax case (Section III) and when corporate taxes were taken into account (Section IV). Thus the assumption of homogeneous risk-classes, constructed expressly to eliminate a fullblown market equilibrium model, and the arbitrage proof are no longer necessary. In place of arbitrage, a switching operation was discussed.

Sections V and VI were devoted to developing and interpreting the cost of capital, the minimum required rate of return individual projects within the firm must surpass in order that their shareholders not suffer a decrease in expected utility. MM's recommended cost of capital was found to be a special case (for nondiversifying investments) of the one developed here, albeit a most important special case. Then comparing Lintner's cost of capital to MM's, the latter version was thought to be more accurate in the majority of cases faced by the firm. Finally, cursory suggestions to estimate the cost of capital were made.

It might be of interest to note that MM's discussions suggest an equilibrium portfolio model was implicitly being employed. For instance, they associated a rise in expected equity yields, when leverage increased, to an increased premium induced by the need to bear greater variability risk. And when discussing their arbitrage operation, we can quote [21, footnote 11]:

In the language of the theory of choice, the exchanges are movements from inefficient points in the interior to efficient points on the boundary of the investor's opportunity set; and not movements between efficient points along the boundary . . .

That their propositions are shown to hold in the portfolio model under market equilibrium conditions a decade later (and slightly earlier for Proposition I in the time-state preference framework) should be regarded as a tribute to their partial equilibrium concept of the homogeneous risk-class.

But a word of caution is necessary in conclusion. We opened the analytical part of this paper with an enumeration of the assumptions. The results presented here are conditional on these assumptions not grossly violating reality.

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