

Article

## Analysis of business valuation models with AI emphasis

**Milad Shahvaroughi Farahani**Nizam Think Tank on Country Governance Issues, Tehran 3317735389, Iran; [m.shahvaroughi@khatam.ac.ir](mailto:m.shahvaroughi@khatam.ac.ir)

---

**CITATION**

Farahani MS. Analysis of business valuation models with AI emphasis. *Sustainable Economies*. 2024; 2(3): 132.  
<https://doi.org/10.62617/se.v2i3.132>

---

**ARTICLE INFO**

Received: 7 May 2024  
Accepted: 12 July 2024  
Available online: 19 July 2024

---

**COPYRIGHT**

Copyright © 2024 by author(s).  
*Sustainable Economies* is published by Sin-Chn Scientific Press Pte. Ltd. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license.  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

**Abstract:** The main purpose of the paper is to evaluate and compare different business valuation models that incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. The paper seeks to understand the capabilities, advantages, disadvantages, and limitations of these AI-based models in valuing businesses accurately. Additionally, the paper aims to provide insights into how AI can be utilized effectively in the field of business valuation to enhance accuracy and efficiency. We used qualitative research methods which involve reviewing and analyzing existing literature, case studies, and expert opinions on business valuation models and artificial intelligence. The main contribution of the paper is the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques into traditional business valuation models. The authors propose using AI algorithms such as machine learning and natural language processing to improve the accuracy and efficiency of valuing businesses. By leveraging AI technology, the paper aims to provide more reliable and data-driven valuations, ultimately enhancing decision-making processes for investors, managers, and other stakeholders. The initial segment of the analysis outlines conventional business valuation approaches, such as discounted cash flow (DCF), comparable company analysis (CCA), and asset-based valuation. These methods utilize historical financial data, market comparisons, and asset valuations to estimate a company's value. Although they are effective, these traditional models have limitations in terms of capturing intricate market dynamics and accurately forecasting future performance. The following section of the analysis delves into specific AI-driven valuation strategies, such as sentiment analysis, predictive analytics, and algorithmic trading techniques. It also explores how AI technologies, like machine learning algorithms, natural language processing (NLP), and deep learning, are revolutionizing business valuation practices. AI enables the analysis of vast datasets, including unstructured data from platforms like social media, news articles, and industry reports, to extract valuable insights. Machine learning models can detect patterns, correlations, and predictive indicators that traditional models may miss, leading to more accurate and agile valuations. The analysis then addresses the benefits, obstacles, and considerations associated with integrating AI into business valuation. This includes data quality and accessibility, model interpretability and transparency, regulatory compliance, and ethical concerns related to AI bias and fairness. In addition, a comparative evaluation of AI-based models is presented. In conclusion, integrating AI into business valuation models presents significant potential to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and dependability of valuation assessments. Using AI-driven methodologies, investors and analysts can gain deeper insights into the intrinsic value of businesses, enabling them to make more informed investment decisions in dynamic and competitive markets. However, it is crucial to pay careful attention to data integrity, model transparency, and ethical implications to ensure the responsible and effective use of AI in business valuation. Finally, future directions and recommendations are provided.

**Keywords:** business analysis; business valuations; startups; Artificial Intelligence; traditional models

**Jel Classification:** C45; G12; M21

---

## 1. Introduction

Business valuation is the process of determining the economic value of a business or company [1,2]. This involves assessing various factors, such as financial performance, assets, liabilities, market trends, industry conditions, and growth prospects, to obtain an estimate of the business' worth. Business valuation models are methods used to determine the economic value of a business or company [3]. These tools are crucial for investors, analysts, and business owners to assess the worth of a business, whether for buying or selling purposes, financial reporting, or strategic decision-making. These models use various financial and non-financial factors to estimate business value. Business valuation is crucial for various purposes, as presented in **Table 1** [4].

**Table1.** Business valuation purposes.

Row	Purpose	Explanations
1	Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A)	Valuation helps buyers and sellers negotiate the purchase or sale of businesses
2	Investment Analysis	Investors use valuation to assess the potential return on investment (ROI) and make informed decisions about allocating capital.
3	Equity Financing	Valuation is essential for determining the value of equity shares issued to investors during fundraising rounds.
4	Financial Reporting	Companies may require valuations for financial reporting purposes, such as fair value measurements, goodwill impairment testing, and stock-based compensation
5	Litigation and Dispute Resolution	Valuation experts provide opinions on the value of businesses in legal proceedings, such as shareholder disputes, divorce settlements, and estate planning.
6	Taxation	Valuation is used to determine the tax implications of transactions, including estate taxes, gift taxes, and corporate taxes.

There are several approaches to business valuation, each with its own set of assumptions, methodologies, and applications. Some of the most common valuation models include: 1) Income approach 2) Market approach 3) Asset approach 4) Hybrid approach [5].

Although common business valuation models provide useful frameworks for estimating the value of a business, they also have limitations [6].

- **Sensitivity to Assumptions:** Valuation models often rely on various assumptions about future growth rates, discount rates, and cash flow projections. Small changes in these assumptions can lead to significant differences in the estimated value of a business, making valuations sensitive to subjective inputs.
- **Historical Data Bias:** Many valuation models use historical financial data to forecast future performance. However, historical data cannot always accurately reflect future trends, especially rapidly changing industries or economic downturns. This can result in inaccurate valuations.
- **Lack of Precision:** Valuation models provide estimates of values within a range rather than precise values. The inherent uncertainty in predicting future cash flows, discount rates, and other factors means that valuations are inherently imprecise and subject to interpretation.

- **Limited Scope:** Some valuation models focus solely on financial metrics, such as earnings or cash flow, without considering other factors that can affect the value of a business, such as market trends, competitive positioning, management quality, and intangible assets.
- **Assumption of Market Efficiency:** Valuation models often assume that markets are efficient and that asset prices reflect all available information. However, in practice, markets may be inefficient, leading to mispricing and discrepancies between intrinsic and market values.
- **Complexity:** Certain valuation models, such as discounted cash flow (DCF) analysis and option pricing models, can be intricate and require significant expertise. This complexity can make it challenging for nonexperts to understand and interpret the results accurately.
- **Subjectivity:** Valuation models involve subjective judgments and assumptions, especially when estimating future growth rates, discount rates, and terminal values. Different analysts use different methodologies and assumptions, resulting in different valuation results.
- **Limited Applicability:** Some valuation models may be more suitable for certain types of businesses or industries than others. For example, discounted cash flow (DCF) analysis may be less effective for early-stage startups with limited operating history or companies in highly volatile industries.

The purpose of the paper is to evaluate and compare various business valuation models that incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) technology to determine their effectiveness and accuracy in predicting the value of a business.

The objectives of the research paper are:

- To examine different AI-based business valuation models currently used in the market.
- To assess the strengths and weaknesses of these AI-based business valuation models.
- To compare the accuracy and reliability of AI-based business valuation models with traditional valuation methods.
- To identify the key factors that influence the valuation of a business and determine how AI technology can improve the accuracy of these factors.
- To provide recommendations for businesses on selecting the most appropriate AI-based business valuation model for their specific needs.

The hypothesis of the research paper is that AI technology can significantly enhance the accuracy and efficiency of business valuation models, leading to more reliable and informed decision-making for business owners, investors, and other stakeholders.

## **2. Literature review**

Business valuation is a critical aspect of corporate finance, as it involves determining the worth of a company or its assets. Various methods and models have been developed over the years to help investors, managers, and other stakeholders make informed decisions about the value of a business [7]. With the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, these valuation models are now being enhanced and

improved to provide more accurate and reliable estimates.

One of the most commonly used business valuation models is the discounted cash flow (DCF) method [8]. This model estimates the present value of a company's future cash flows by discounting them back to their current value using a discount rate. While the DCF method is widely accepted and used in practice, it has its limitations, such as the need for accurate revenue and cost projections, and the choice of an appropriate discount rate. AI technologies can help overcome these limitations by automating the process of data collection and analysis, and by providing more accurate and timely projections.

Another popular valuation model is the comparable company analysis (CCA) method, which involves comparing the financial metrics of a target company to those of similar public companies in the same industry [9]. While the CCA method is relatively simple and straightforward, it can be time-consuming and subjective, as it relies on the judgment of analysts to select an appropriate set of comparable companies. AI technologies can help streamline this process by analyzing large datasets of financial information and identifying the most relevant comparable based on predefined criteria.

In recent years, machine learning algorithms have been applied to business valuation models to improve their accuracy and reliability [10]. Machine learning algorithms can analyze large amounts of data and identify complex patterns and relationships that may not be immediately apparent to human analysts. These algorithms can be trained on historical valuation data to make predictions about the value of a company based on its financial and non-financial attributes. By incorporating machine learning into business valuation models, analysts can provide more objective and data-driven estimates of a company's worth.

One key advantage of using AI technology in business valuation is the ability to automate repetitive tasks and reduce human error [11]. AI algorithms can process vast amounts of data in a fraction of the time it would take a human analyst, freeing up valuable time for more strategic analysis and decision-making. Additionally, AI technologies can help analysts identify potential biases and inconsistencies in their valuation models, leading to more accurate and robust estimates.

Despite the potential benefits of AI in business valuation, there are also challenges and limitations to consider. One of the main challenges is the need for high-quality data to train AI algorithms and ensure accurate predictions [12]. Inaccurate or incomplete data can lead to erroneous valuation estimates, undermining the credibility of the model. Additionally, the complexity and interpretability of AI algorithms can pose challenges for analysts and stakeholders who may not fully understand how the model arrives at its conclusions.

In conclusion, the integration of AI technology into business valuation models has the potential to revolutionize the way companies are valued and assessed. By automating repetitive tasks, improving data quality, and enhancing the accuracy of predictions, AI can help analysts make more informed decisions about the value of a business. While there are challenges and limitations to consider, the benefits of using AI in business valuation are clear, and the field is likely to continue evolving as new technologies and techniques are developed.

### **3. Current business valuation methods**

We will delve into various current business valuation methods [13]:

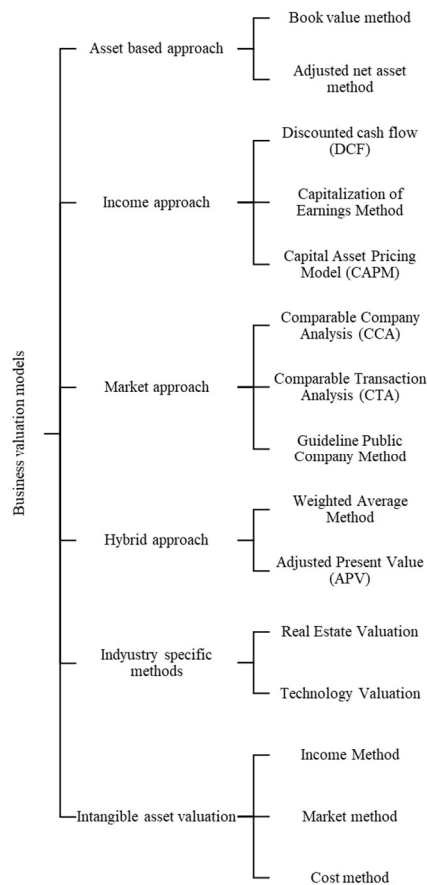
- 1) **Asset-Based Approach**
  - **Book Value Method:** This method calculates the value of a business based on its net assets' book value (assets minus liabilities), as reported on the balance sheet.
  - **Adjusted Net Asset Method:** This method adjusts the book value of assets and liabilities to reflect fair market values rather than historical costs.
- 2) **Income Approach:**
  - **Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Analysis** estimates the present value of a business' future cash flows considering factors such as revenue growth, operating expenses, capital expenditures, and discount rates.
  - **Capitalization of Earnings Method:** This method determines the value of a business by capitalizing expected future earnings at an appropriate rate.
  - The capital asset pricing model (CAPM) utilizes the risk-free rate, market risk premium, and beta coefficient to calculate equity costs. This equity cost is then used to discount future cash flows in a Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) analysis.
- 3) **Market Approach:**
  - **Comparable Company Analysis (CCA)** compares the target company with similar publicly traded companies in terms of size, industry, growth prospects, and financial performance.
  - **Comparable Transaction Analysis (CTA):** This analysis reviews recent transactions of similar businesses to determine valuation multiples (e.g., price-to-earnings ratio, enterprise value-to-revenue ratio) that can be applied to the target company.
  - **Guideline Public Companies:** This method utilizes valuation multiples obtained from publicly traded companies with similar characteristics to determine the value of the target company.
- 4) **Hybrid Approach:**
  - **Weighted Average Method:** Combines multiple valuation methods, assigning weights based on relevance and reliability to obtain the final valuation estimate.
  - **Adjusted Present Value (APV):** Includes elements of both the income approach (DCF analysis) and the market approach (valuation multiples) to account for factors such as debt financing and tax shields.
- 5) **Industry-Specific Methods:**
  - **Real Estate Valuation:** Utilizes methods such as the cost approach (replacement cost, reproduction cost), income approach (capitalization rate, gross rent multiplier), and market approach (comparable sales analysis) to value real estate properties.
  - **Technology Valuation:** This model employs specialized techniques, such as the option pricing model, the Black-Scholes model, and risk-adjusted return on capital (RAROC) model, to assess the value of technology companies and intellectual property assets.

6) Intangible Asset Valuation:

- Income: This method estimates the value of future economic benefits derived from intangible assets, such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, and customer relationships.
- Market Method: Determines the value of intangible assets by comparing similar prices in a marketplace.
- Cost Method: Calculates the cost of replacing or reproducing intangible assets.

Each of these methods has its advantages, limitations, and applicability, depending on the nature of the business, industry dynamics, market conditions, and purpose of the valuation. It is common for business appraisers to use multiple methods and approaches to triangulate a reliable valuation estimate.

In summary, **Figure 1** presents the following:



**Figure 1.** Business valuation methods.

#### 4. AI techniques in business valuation

Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques are becoming increasingly relevant in business valuation, offering innovative ways to assess company performance, identify key valuation drivers, and make more informed investment decisions. In **Table 2**, there are some AI techniques commonly used in business valuation [14]:

By using artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, businesses and valuation professionals can improve the accuracy, efficiency, and reliability of their valuation

analyses. This can lead to more informed investment decisions and strategic planning.

**Table 2.** AI techniques in business valuation.

Row	Techniques	Explanations
1	Machine Learning (ML)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machine learning algorithms analyze large datasets to identify key trends and correlations affecting business valuation. Supervised learning techniques, such as regression analysis and decision trees, can predict business valuations from historical financial data and market comparisons. Unsupervised learning techniques, such as clustering and dimensionality reduction, can uncover hidden insights and relationships in complex datasets.</li> <li>Regression Analysis: Machine learning algorithms can be used to analyze historical financial data and identify relationships between various financial metrics and company valuations.</li> <li>Random forest: This random forest model uses multiple decision trees to provide robust and accurate valuations.</li> <li>Gradient Boosting Machines: Used for predicting company valuations by iteratively building weak predictive models and combining them to create a strong overall prediction.</li> </ul>
2	Natural Language Processing (NLP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP techniques enable the analysis of unstructured text data, such as financial reports, industry reports, news articles, and social media posts, to extract relevant information for business valuation. Sentiment analysis can assess market sentiment and investor perceptions, and topic modeling can identify key topics and themes relevant to valuation.</li> <li>Topic Modeling: NLP techniques help identify topics and themes in textual data and provide valuable insights into market trends, competitive landscapes, and industry dynamics that impact valuation.</li> </ul>
3	Deep Learning (DL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DL algorithms, such as neural networks, can process vast amounts of structured and unstructured data to derive insights for business valuation. Deep learning models can learn complex relationships and nonlinear patterns in data, making them suitable for tasks such as forecasting financial performance, assessing market dynamics, and identifying valuation drivers.</li> <li>Neural Networks: Deep learning models can be applied to complex valuation scenarios in which nonlinear relationships exist between input variables and company valuations.</li> <li>Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN): A CNN can process and analyze large sets of financial data, images, or time-series data to extract meaningful features that impact business valuation.</li> </ul>
4	Predictive Analytics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predictive analytics techniques leverage historical data to forecast future business performance and estimate valuation metrics. Predictive analytics uses time series analysis, regression modeling, and ensemble methods to forecast key financial indicators like revenue growth, profitability, and cash flow projections.</li> <li>Time-series forecasting: Predictive models can use historical financial data to forecast future performance indicators, such as revenue growth, profitability, and market share, which are crucial in determining company valuation.</li> <li>Customer Churn Prediction: By predicting customer churn rates, businesses can assess the impact on future cash flows and company valuation.</li> </ul>
5	Sentiment Analysis	<p>Sentiment analysis algorithms analyze textual data to gauge market sentiment, customer opinions, and stakeholder perceptions related to a business. Sentiment analysis analyzes news articles, social media posts, customer reviews, and analyst reports to assess the impact of external factors on business valuation.</p>
6	Image Recognition	<p>Image recognition technologies can analyze visual data, such as satellite imagery, aerial photographs, and property images, to identify physical assets, infrastructure, and real estate properties relevant to business valuation. Computer vision algorithms analyze visual features and characteristics to assess property conditions, identify market trends, and estimate asset values.</p>
7	Robotic Process Automation (RPA)	<p>RPA technologies automate repetitive and rule-based tasks involved in business valuation processes, such as data collection, data entry, and report generation. By automating manual processes, RPA improves efficiency, reduces errors, and allows valuation professionals to focus on higher-value activities, such as analysis and decision-making.</p>
8	Knowledge Graphs	<p>Knowledge graphs represent structured information about business entities, relationships, and attributes in a graph-based format. By integrating data from various sources, such as financial databases, market reports, and regulatory filings, knowledge graphs provide a comprehensive view of the business ecosystem, allowing for more informed valuation decisions.</p>
9	Data Mining and Pattern Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anomaly Detection: AI algorithms can detect irregular patterns in financial data that may indicate fraudulent activities or errors, thereby impacting company valuation.</li> <li>Cluster Analysis: Identifying clusters of companies with similar valuation drivers through cluster analysis can provide insights into industry benchmarks and competitive positioning.</li> </ul>
10	AI-Powered Valuation Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automated Valuation Models (AVMs): AI-driven tools can automate the valuation process by efficiently analyzing vast data and generating accurate valuation estimates.</li> <li>AI tools can simulate various scenarios and evaluate their impact on company valuation, thereby improving risk management and strategic decision-making.</li> </ul>

## 5. Advantages and disadvantages of AI-based valuation models

AI-based valuation models offer several advantages and disadvantages in the context of business valuation. In **Table 3**, we have explored some key points for each Advantages and disadvantage of AI-based valuation models [15–17]:

**Table 3.** Advantages and disadvantages of AI-based valuation models.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased accuracy: AI algorithms can analyze vast amounts of data and identify complex patterns and relationships that may not be apparent to human analysts. This can lead to more accurate valuation estimates by incorporating a wider range of factors into the analysis.</li> <li>Improved efficiency: AI-based valuation models automate many aspects of the valuation process, such as data collection, analysis, and reporting, reducing the time and effort required to perform valuations. This allows valuation professionals to focus on higher-level tasks and strategic decision-making.</li> <li>Enhanced predictive power: AI techniques, such as machine learning, can forecast future business performance based on historical data and market trends. By incorporating predictive analytics into the valuation process, AI-based models can provide insights into the potential future value of a business.</li> <li>Adaptability: AI algorithms can adapt and learn from new data, allowing valuation models to evolve and improve over time. This flexibility enables AI-based models to adjust to changing market conditions and incorporate new information into the valuation analysis.</li> <li>Scalability: AI-based valuation models can handle large and complex datasets, making them suitable for valuing businesses of all sizes and across various industries. This scalability allows valuation professionals to analyze multiple companies simultaneously and assess their relative value more efficiently.</li> <li>Improved speed: AI-based models can automate the valuation process, reducing the time required to generate valuation reports and allowing for quicker decision-making.</li> <li>Reduced bias: AI models can help minimize human bias in the valuation process by relying on data-driven analysis rather than subjective judgment.</li> <li>Continuous learning: AI algorithms can continuously learn from new data and adapt to changing market conditions, improving the model's accuracy and relevance over time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Dependence: AI-based valuation models rely heavily on data inputs for training and analysis. Incomplete, inaccurate, or biased data used to train the models can result in flawed valuation estimates and unreliable results.</li> <li>Lack of Transparency: Some AI algorithms, particularly deep learning models, operate as "black boxes," making it challenging to interpret their decision-making process. The lack of transparency can raise concerns about the reliability and trustworthiness of AI-based valuation models.</li> <li>Overfitting: AI algorithms may overfit the training data, resulting in the capture of irrelevant patterns or noise that do not generalize well to new data. This can result in overly optimistic or pessimistic valuation estimates that do not accurately represent the true value of the business.</li> <li>Complexity: AI-based valuation models can be complex and may require specialized knowledge and expertise to develop and interpret. This complexity may limit the accessibility of AI-based valuation techniques to non-experts and smaller firms with limited resources.</li> <li>Ethical and Regulatory Concerns: AI-based valuation models raise ethical and regulatory concerns related to data privacy, bias, and accountability. Valuation professionals must ensure that AI algorithms are used responsibly, in compliance with relevant regulations and industry standards.</li> <li>Initial Investment: Implementing AI-based valuation models may require a significant upfront investment in technology, infrastructure, and expertise, which can be a barrier for smaller businesses.</li> </ul>

Overall, AI-based valuation models offer significant advantages in terms of accuracy, efficiency, and adaptability; however, they also pose challenges related to data quality, transparency, and interpretability. Valuation professionals should carefully consider these factors when incorporating AI techniques into their valuation processes and ensure that AI-based models are used responsibly and ethically.

## 6. A comparative study of AI-based models

Comparing AI-based valuation models can provide insights into their strengths, weaknesses, and suitability for different business valuation scenarios. **Table 4** presents a comparative study focusing on three popular AI-based valuation techniques: Machine Learning, Deep Learning Models, and Natural Language Processing (NLP) Models.



**Table 4.** Strengths and weaknesses of AI-based models.

	Machine learning (ML)	Deep learning (DL)	Natural language processing (NLP)
Strengths	(1) Interpretable Results: Machine learning models like regression analysis, provide interpretable results, allowing users to understand the factors driving valuation. (2) Robustness: Models like Random Forest and Gradient Boosting are robust against noise and outliers in data, resulting in stable valuation predictions. (3) Feature Importance: These models help identify key valuation drivers via feature importance analysis.	Complex Patterns: Deep learning models like Neural Networks can capture complex patterns in data, which makes them suitable for intricate valuation scenarios. Automated Feature Learning: These models automatically learn relevant features from the data, which reduces the need for manual feature engineering. High Accuracy: Deep learning models can achieve high accuracy when trained on large datasets with diverse variables.	(1) Sentiment Analysis: NLP analyzes textual data to gauge market sentiment and incorporate qualitative factors into valuation models. (2) Information extraction: This technique extracts valuable insights from unstructured text data, such as news articles, reports, and social media, and enhances valuation analysis. (3) Topic Modeling: Helps in identifying key themes and topics that influence company valuations and provides a holistic view of valuation drivers.
Weaknesses	(1) Linear Relationships: The ability to capture nonlinear relationships between input variables and valuation, which limits the accuracy of complex scenarios. (2) Manual feature engineering: Manual feature engineering is often required to optimize model performance; this can be time-consuming and may introduce bias.	(1) Black box nature: Deep learning models are often considered black boxes; thus, it is challenging to interpret how they arrive at their valuation predictions. (2) Data Requirements: Large amounts of high-quality data are required for training, which may be a limitation for some businesses with limited data availability.	(1) Subjectivity: Textual data analysis is prone to subjectivity and interpretation bias, which impacts the accuracy of sentiment analysis. (2) Data preprocessing: This task requires the preprocessing of unstructured text data, including cleaning, tokenization, and normalization, and can be labor intensive.

In the following, more comparative information is presented:

- **Model Interpretability**

Machine learning models generally offer more interpretability than deep learning models. This interpretability allows users to understand how the model arrives at its predictions, which makes it easier for stakeholders to explain the valuation outcomes. NLP models, particularly sentiment analysis and topic modeling, may offer less interpretability than traditional machine learning models like regression analysis. The outputs of NLP models are often based on the analysis of textual data, which can be a challenge to interpret directly.

- **Data Requirements**

Deep learning models often require large amounts of data for training to achieve optimal performance. In contrast, machine learning models can sometimes work well with smaller datasets, making them more accessible for businesses with limited data availability. NLP models typically require unstructured text data, such as news articles, reports, and social media content, which may present different data challenges than the structured financial data used in traditional machine learning models. Ensuring high-quality relevant text data is crucial for the effectiveness of NLP models in business valuation.

- **Computational Complexity**

Deep learning models, especially complex neural networks, are computationally intensive and require significant computational resources for training and inference. Machine learning models, particularly simpler ones like linear regression, are less computationally expensive. NLP models can vary in complexity depending on the techniques used, such as sentiment analysis, topic modeling, and word embeddings.

Although they may require processing power for text preprocessing and feature extraction, the computational requirements of NLP models can differ from those of deep learning models that work with numerical data.

- **Generalization Ability**

Deep learning models can generalize well to unseen data, especially in complex valuation scenarios with high-dimensional data. However, machine learning models may struggle with generalization in such scenarios. NLP models, particularly sentiment analysis models, are designed to extract sentiment and textual relationships that may not always be generalizable to all valuation scenarios. Deep learning and traditional machine learning models may offer more versatility relative to handling diverse data types and capturing complex patterns that enhance generalizability.

- **Domain Adaptability**

Natural Language Processing models, due to their ability to analyze textual data, are particularly suitable for industries in which qualitative information plays a significant role in valuation, such as the financial sector. Machine learning and deep learning models, while versatile, may not capture qualitative factors as effectively. NLP models excel at extracting insights from qualitative data sources, making them well-suited for industries where textual information plays a significant role in valuation decisions. In contrast, machine learning and deep learning models are more versatile in handling varied data types and can be adapted to different domains with proper feature engineering.

- **Cost and Implementation**

Deep learning models often require specialized expertise in neural networks and substantial computational resources, potentially increasing implementation costs. Machine learning models are more straightforward to implement and maintain in comparison. Implementing NLP models requires expertise in natural language processing and text data preprocessing. Depending on the complexity of the NLP model and the volume of text data, the implementation and maintenance costs may differ compared to traditional machine learning models.

- **Scalability and Flexibility**

Machine learning models offer higher flexibility and scalability compared to deep learning models, allowing for easier adaptation to changing valuation requirements and datasets. NLP models offer flexibility in terms of analyzing text data and extracting valuable insights about market sentiment, competitive landscape, and industry trends. They can complement traditional machine learning models by incorporating qualitative factors into the valuation process, thereby enhancing the overall analysis.

In summary, the selection of an AI-based valuation model should consider factors such as interpretability, data requirements, computational complexity, generalization ability, domain adaptability, cost, scalability, and flexibility. Each model has strengths and weaknesses, and the selection should be based on the specific needs and characteristics of the given valuation task. It may also be beneficial to combine multiple AI techniques to exploit their advantages and enhance the overall valuation process.

## **7. Conclusions and remarks**

In conclusion, the paper reveals the transformative potential of AI in revolutionizing traditional valuation methods. Through this study, we explored various AI-based approaches to business valuation, including machine learning algorithms, neural networks, and natural language processing techniques.

Overall, AI-based valuation models offer several advantages over traditional methods, including improved accuracy, scalability, and efficiency. By leveraging large datasets and sophisticated algorithms, AI models can uncover hidden patterns and insights in financial data, leading to more accurate and reliable valuations. In addition, AI-driven automation streamlines the valuation process, thereby reducing the time and resources required for analysis.

However, it is essential to acknowledge the limitations and challenges associated with AI-based valuation models. These concerns include data quality, model interpretability, and regulatory compliance. Furthermore, the success of AI-based valuation depends heavily on the availability of high-quality data and the expertise of data scientists and financial analysts in developing and deploying these models effectively.

Looking ahead, there is immense potential for further research and innovation in AI-based valuation techniques. Future advancements in AI technology, such as explainable AI and reinforcement learning, hold promise in terms of addressing current limitations and enhancing the capabilities of valuation models. Moreover, interdisciplinary collaboration between finance experts, data scientists, and AI researchers will drive progress in this field.

In conclusion, AI-based valuation models represent a significant advancement in business valuation practices; their successful implementation requires careful consideration of both opportunities and challenges. By harnessing the power of AI responsibly and ethically, businesses can leverage these innovative techniques to make informed decisions and drive sustainable growth in today's dynamic business environment.

## **8. Policy implications**

- 1) **Regulation and Oversight:** Policymakers may need to consider implementing regulations and oversight mechanisms to ensure that AI-powered business valuation models are accurate, reliable, and transparent. This could involve setting standards for AI algorithms and requiring validation and auditing of these models.
- 2) **Education and Training:** Policymakers could also focus on promoting education and training programs to help business owners and investors understand how AI-powered valuation models work and how to interpret their results. This could help prevent misunderstandings or misuse of these models.
- 3) **Data Privacy and Security:** Given the reliance on large amounts of data for AI-powered business valuation models, policymakers may need to address concerns around data privacy and security. This could involve implementing strict data protection measures and ensuring that data used for valuation purposes is handled securely and ethically.

- 4) Bias and Fairness: Policymakers may also need to address concerns around bias and fairness in AI-powered business valuation models. This could involve developing guidelines for mitigating bias in algorithms, ensuring diversity in data sources, and promoting the use of ethical AI practices.
- 5) Accessibility and Inclusivity: Policymakers could work to ensure that AI-powered business valuation models are accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including small businesses, startups, and marginalized communities. This could involve providing resources and support for those who may not have access to sophisticated AI technologies.

Overall, the policy implications of the paper suggest a need for careful consideration of how AI-powered business valuation models are developed, implemented, and regulated to ensure that they provide accurate and fair valuations for businesses of all sizes and types.

**Conflict of interest:** The author declares no conflict of interest.

## References

1. Palepu KG, Healy PM, Wright S, et al. Business analysis and valuation: Using financial statements. Cengage AU. 2020.
2. Batrancea LM, Nichita A, Cocis AD. Financial Performance and Sustainable Corporate Reputation: Empirical Evidence from the Airline Business. Sustainability. 2022; 14(20): 13567. doi: 10.3390/su142013567
3. Nenkov D. Company Valuation: The Most Widely Used Valuation Methods in Bulgaria. Finance, Accounting, and Business Analysis. 2023; 5(1): 1–13.
4. Miciuła I, Kadłubek M, Stępień P. Modern Methods of Business Valuation—Case Study and New Concepts. Sustainability. 2020; 12(7): 2699. doi: 10.3390/su12072699
5. Allee KD, Erickson D, Esplin AM, et al. The Characteristics, Valuation Methods, and Information Use of Valuation Specialists. Accounting Horizons. 2020; 34(3): 23–38. doi: 10.2308/horizons-19-057
6. Scarpati A. Advance stochastic valuation models and the limitations of traditional deterministic dcf/real cases. Available online: <https://www.bvint.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Advanced.Valuations.pdf> (accessed on 26 March 2019).
7. Enholm IM, Papagiannidis E, Mikalef P, et al. Artificial Intelligence and Business Value: A Literature Review. Information Systems Frontiers. 2021; 24(5): 1709–1734. doi: 10.1007/s10796-021-10186-w
8. Nenkov, D. (2023). Company Valuation: The Most Widely Used Valuation Methods in Bulgaria. Finance, Accounting and Business Analysis, 5(1), 1-13. <https://faba.bg/index.php/faba/article/view/150>
9. Rekawiczny M. Equity valuation: CCC SA [PhD thesis]. Portuguese Catholic University; 2019.
10. Shahvaroughi Farahani M, Razavi Hajiagha SH. Forecasting stock price using integrated artificial neural network and metaheuristic algorithms compared to time series models. Soft Computing. 2021; 25(13): 8483–8513. doi: 10.1007/s00500-021-05775-5
11. Shahvaroughi Farahani M, Farrokhi-Asl H. Improved market prediction using meta-heuristic algorithms and time series model and testing market efficiency. Iran Journal of Computer Science. 2022; 6(1): 29–61. doi: 10.1007/s42044-022-00120-x
12. Farahani MS, Esfahani A. Opportunities and Challenges of Applying Artificial Intelligence in the Financial Sectors and Startups during the Coronavirus Outbreak. International Journal of Innovation in Management, Economics and Social Sciences. 2022; 2(4): 33–55. doi: 10.52547/ijimes.2.4.33.
13. Matschke MJ, Brösel G. Business valuation: Functions, methods, principles. Available online: <https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=6zksEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=2.%09Current+business+valuation+methods&ots=Kbf8Jk5V7f&sig=fHfx2QKb21PJ9VPEIKDEzC0TPrU#v=onepage&q=2.%09Current%20business%20valuation%20methods&f=false> (accessed on 15 May 2021).
14. Ding Y. Analysis of the Implementation of AI Techniques in Valuation for Science and Technology Industry. Highlights in Business, Economics and Management. 2023; 19: 540–546. doi: 10.54097/hbem.v19i.11998
15. Geertsema P, Lu H. Relative Valuation with Machine Learning. Journal of Accounting Research. 2022; 61(1): 329–376. doi:

10.1111/1475-679x.12464

16. Dhochak M, Pahal S, Doliya P. Predicting the Startup Valuation: A deep learning approach. *Venture Capital*. 2022; 26(1): 75–99. doi: 10.1080/13691066.2022.2161968
17. Chowdhary KR. Natural language processing. *Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence*. Springer India; 2020. doi: 10.1007/978-81-322-3972-7