PMAR 2021

Hierarchical Attribution: A "Must Have" Situation



"Insights and Innovation"
Stephen Campisi, CFA
www.thepensargrp.com

Agenda

- A bit of forgotten history
- The plain vanilla view
- Exposing fake selection
- The true macro view



Hierarchical Attribution Articles Published in Journal of Performance

ORTEC (2001) *

Geenen, Heemskerk, Heerema

Decision-Based Evaluation of the Performance of a Hierarchically Structured Investment Process

Campisi (2008)

Balanced Attribution

Muralidhar * (2017)

Attribution Hears a Who!

The Case for Decision-Maker Based Attribution

* Dietz Award



Misuse of History

Fact becomes Fantasy becomes Fact



Context of Brinson Attribution Model

Original application:

Multi-asset class pension portfolio analysis

•Broad purpose:

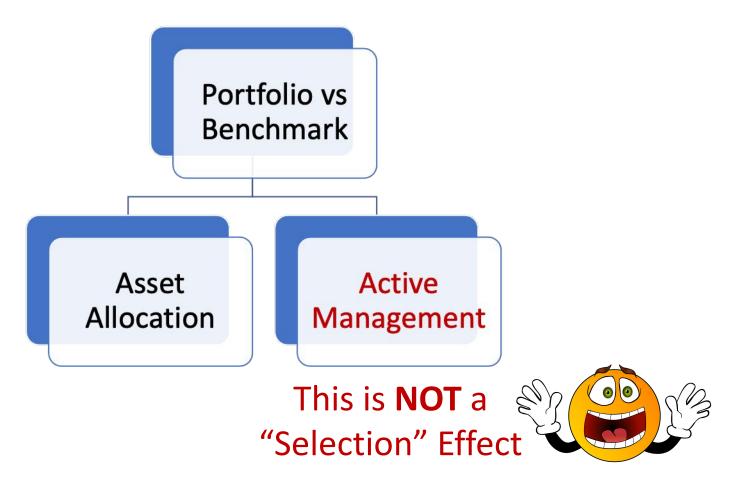
- Determine outcomes of plan sponsor decisions
 - Asset allocation
 - Active management

•Limited scope:

- Focus on total attribution effects
- "Segment-level" effects were simply a "means to an end"



Original Brinson Model



Brinson's Conclusion: Active management was a **drag** on returns



Brinson Model is a **Decision** Framework

Original Brinson Portfolio vs (Summary Level) Benchmark Plan Active Asset Sponsor Allocation Management **Decisions** Fund **Active Fund** Manager Management **Decisions**





Proper Uses of Brinson Model

•Can we apply this to an individual asset class?

•Can we use the sector-level information?

•Can we interpret sector info as "Allocation + Selection?"

"NO"



"What is this thing called Selection?"

"Selection is the active residual that remains after you stop accounting for allocation decisions."



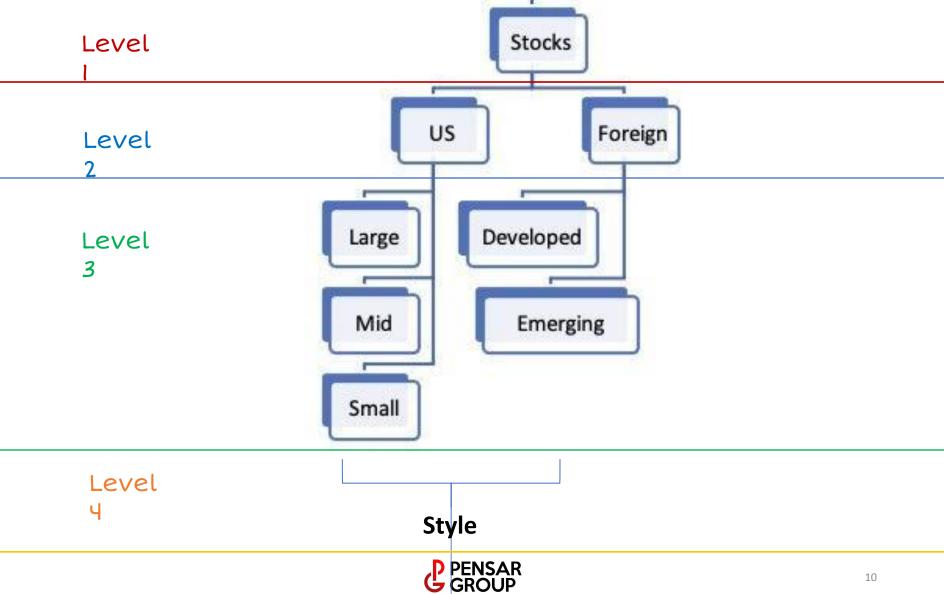
Guiding Principles

Attribution must reflect investment decision process

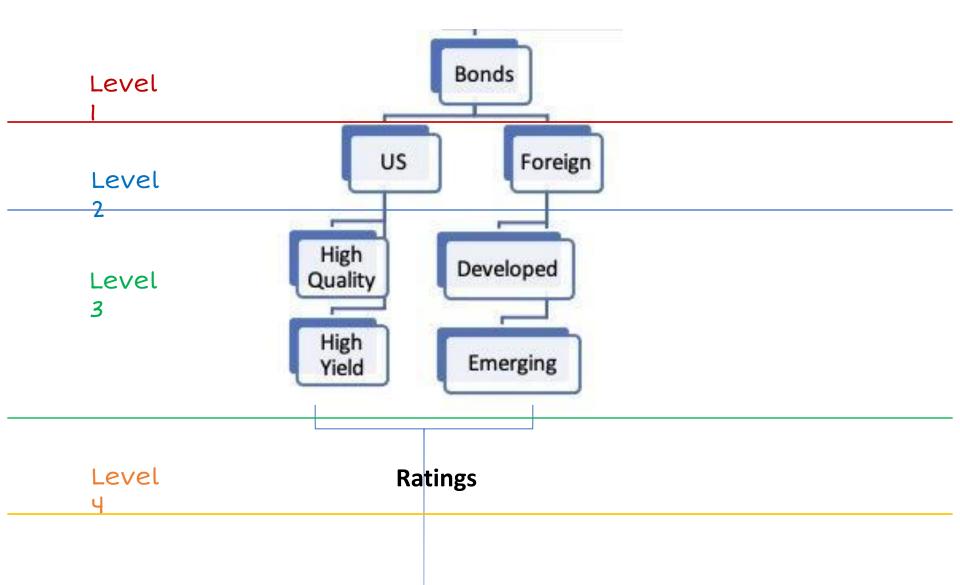
Asset allocation decision process is inherently hierarchical



Sample Stock Hierarchy

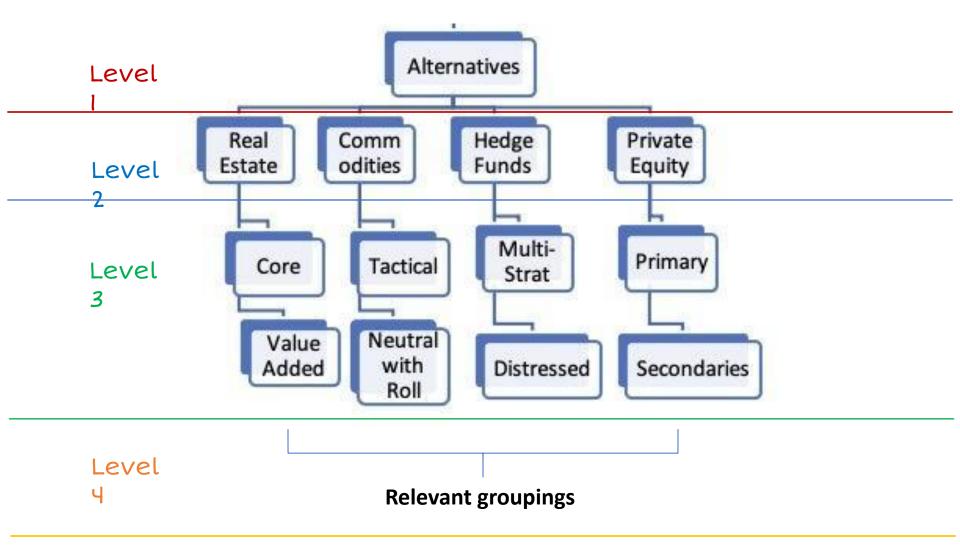


Sample Bond Hierarchy



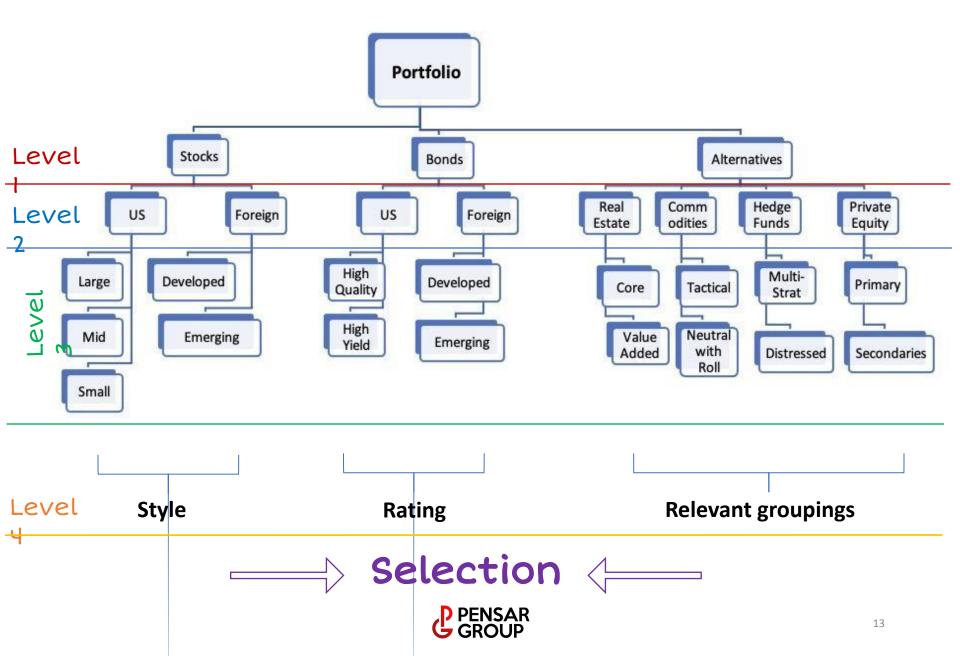


Alternatives Hierarchy





Typical Portfolio Asset Hierarchy



Misuse of the Model

When "The Obvious Way" is Wrong



Non-Hierarchical Attribution Components

	Port	folio	Bench	nmark	Weighting Difference	Sector Opportunity	Excess Return
	Weight	Return	Weight	Return			
Large	30%	6.25	33%	6.00	-3%	-0.01	0.25
Mid	15%	7.50	21%	7.00	-6%	0.99	0.50
Small	5%	8.75	6%	8.00	-1%	1.99	0.75
Developed	15%	4.50	11%	5.00	5%	-1.01	-0.50
Emerging	5%	7.00	5%	9.00	1%	2.99	-2.00
High Quality	23%	4.25	18%	4.00	5%	-2.01	0.25
High Yield	8%	5.00	8%	6.00	0%	-0.01	-1.00
		5.79		6.01			-0.22

Tactical allocation

Neutral allocation



Non-Hierarchical Attribution Results

	Weighting Difference	Sector Opportunity	Excess Return	Attrib	oution Ana	alysis
				Allocation	Selection	Total
Large	-3%	-0.01	0.25	0.0003	0.08	0.08
Mid	-6%	0.99	0.50	-0.06	0.08	0.02
Small	-1%	1.99	0.75	-0.02	0.04	0.02
Developed	5%	-1.01	-0.50	-0.05	-0.08	-0.12
Emerging	1%	2.99	-2.00	0.01	-0.10	-0.09
High Quality	5%	-2.01	0.25	-0.10	0.06	-0.04
High Yield	0%	-0.01	-1.00	0.00	-0.08	-0.08
			-0.22	-0.21	-0.01	-0.22

"Just because it adds up does not make it correct!"



A Common Error:

Ignoring Major Groupings

		Portfolio	Benchmark	Over or Under Weight	Weighting Difference
US Equity	Large	30%	33%	Under	-3%
	Mid	15%	21%	Under	6%
	Small	5%	6%	Under	-1%
Fgn Equity	Developed	15%	11%	Over /	5%
	Emerging	5%	5%	Over	1%
Bonds	High Quality	23%	18%	Over	5%
	High Yield	8%	8%	Equal	0%

The Forest

The Trees

Tactical positioning

Is WRONG



Fixing the Error: Start with the Right Context

	Portfolio	Benchmark	Weighting Difference	Over or Under Weight	Relative Weighting Difference
US Equity	50%	60%	-10%	Under	-17%
Fgn Equity	20%	15%	5%	Over	33%
Bonds	30%	25%	5%	Over	20%

- Find Level-1 Relative Weights
- Use these weights to create level-2 adjusted benchmark weights



Comparing Sector Weightings

Proportionate Allocation at 50% asset weighting

	Traditional Weighting	Hierarchical Neutral Weight	Traditional Weighting Difference	Hierarchical Weighting Difference	Traditional Under/Over	Hierarchical Under/Over	Relative Weighting Error
US Equity	30%	27.5%	-3.0%	2.5%	Under	Over	5.5%
	15%	17.5%	-6.0%	-2.5%	Under	Under	3.5%
	5%	5.0%	-1.0%	0.0%	Under	Equal	1.0%
Fgn Equity	15%	14.0%	4.5%	1.0%	Over	Over	-3.5%
	5%	6.0%	0.5%	-1.0%	Over	Under	-1.5%
Bonds	23%	21.0%	5.0%	1.5%	Over	Over	-3.5%
	8%	9.0%	0.0%	-1.5%	Equal	Under	-1.5%

Orig: 33% 21% 6% Must adjust using RELATIVE weightings...
Or tactical weightings will be WRONG:

- 1/2 wrong direction
- 1/2 wrong amount



Proper use of the Model

Hierarchical Approach
Ties everything together



Asset Allocation Effect

Level 1 Analysis

9	Portfolio		Bench	mark			
	Weight	Return	Weight	Return	Allocation	Active Residual	Total
US Equity	50%	6.88	60%	6.55	-0.05	0.16	0.11
Fgn Equity	20%	5.13	15%	6.20	0.01	-0.22	-0.21
Bonds	30%	4.44	25%	4.60	-0.07	-0.05	-0.12
		5.79		6.01	-0.12	-0.10	-0.22

Portfolio underperformed by 22 bps

- •-12 bps from asset allocation
- 10 bps from other active effects
 - US Equity was strongest contributor
 - Fgn Equity was greatest detractor



Unbundling Active Residual

Level 2 Analysis

	Portfolio		Bench	Benchmark	
	Weight	Return	Weight	Return	
US Equity	50%	6.875	60%	6.55	0.3250
LC	60%	6.25	55%	6.00	
MC	30%	7.50	35%	7.00	
sc	10%	8.75	10%	8.00	
Fgn Equity	20%	5.13	15%	6.20	-1.0750
Devl	75%	4.50	70%	5.00	
EM	25%	7.00	30%	9.00	
Bonds	30%	4.44	25%	4.60	-0.1625
HQ	75%	4.25	70%	4.00	
HY	25%	5.00	30%	6.00	

Explain these Excess

Treat each sector as its own portfolio



Unbundling the Active Residual

Level 2 "Sector" Analysis

	Port	folio	
	Weight	Return	
US Equity	50%	6.875	
LC	60%	6.25	
MC	30%	7.50	
SC	10%	8.75	
9	() ()	(C)	

Weight	Return
60%	6.55
55%	6.00
35%	7.00

8.00

10%

Benchmark

Allocation	Selection	Total
-0.050	0.375	0.325
-0.028	0.150	0.123
-0.023	0.150	0.128
0.000	0.075	0.075

Sector Attribution

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Fgn Equity	20%	5.13
Devl	75%	4.50
EM	25%	7.00

15%	6.20
70%	5.00
30%	9.00

-0.200	-0.875	-1.075
-0.060	-0.375	-0.435
-0.140	-0.500	-0.640

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Bonds	30%	4.44
HQ	75%	4.25
HY	25%	5.00

25%	4.60
70%	4.00
30%	6.00

-0.100	-0.063	-0.1625
-0.030	0.188	0.158
-0.070	-0.250	-0.320



Create Portfolio-Level Effects

Pro-rate the Level 2 Analysis

Portfolio

<u>Weight</u>		Secto	r Attrib	ution	Portf	olio Effe	ects
<i>50%</i>	US Equity	Allocation	Selection	Total	Allocation	Selection	Total
		-0.050	0.375	0.325	-0.03	0.19	0.16
	LC	-0.028	0.150	0.123	-0.014	0.075	0.06
	мс	-0.023	0.150	0.128	-0.011	0.075	0.06
	sc	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.038	0.04
20%	Fgn Equity	-0.200	-0.875	-1.075	-0.040	-0.175	-0.22
20 %		9953000000					
	Dev	-0.060	-0.375	-0.435	-0.012	-0.075	-0.09
	EM	-0.140	-0.500	-0.640	-0.028	-0.100	-0.13
	10						
<i>30%</i>	Bonds	-0.100	-0.063	-0.1625	-0.030	-0.019	-0.05
	HQ	-0.030	0.188	0.158	-0.009	0.056	0.05
	HY	-0.070	-0.250	-0.320	-0.021	-0.075	-0.10





Presenting Attribution Results

0) 50	Allocation	Active Residual	Total
US Equity	-0.054	0.163	0.109
Fgn Equity	0.009	-0.215	-0.206
Bonds	-0.071	-0.049	-0.119
Total	-0.115	-0.101	-0.216

G	Asset Allocation	Style Allocation	Selection (Residual)	Total
US Equity	-0.054	-0.025	0.188	0.109
Fgn Equity	0.009	-0.040	-0.175	-0.206
Bonds	-0.071	-0.030	-0.019	-0.119
Total	-0.115	-0.095	-0.006	-0.216



Hierarchical Attribution Reflects Investment Process

Attribu Sumn	
Asset Allocation	-0.115
Sector Allocation	-0.095
Selection	-0.006
Total	-0.216

	Hie	erarchica	l
	Attribu	tion Ana	alysis
	Sector Allocation	True Selection	Total
Large	-0.014	0.075	0.061
Mid	-0.011	0.075	0.064
Small	0.000	0.038	0.038
Developed	-0.012	-0.075	-0.087
Emerging	-0.028	-0.100	-0.128
High Quality	-0.009	0.056	0.047
High Yield	-0.021	-0.075	-0.096
Total	-0.095	-0.006	-0.101



Should You Add Another Attribution Level in a Multi-Asset Portfolio?

A look at US Equity Segment's

19 bps "Stock Selection" effect



First Breakout of Active Residual

9 - 1	Portfolio		Benc	hmark	Si .	Asset		
	Weight	Return	Weight	Return		Class	Active Residual	Total
US Equity	50%	6.88	60%	6.55	US Equity	-0.05	0.16	0.11
Fgn Equity	20%	5.13	15%	6.20	Fgn Equity	0.01	-0.22	-0.21
Bonds	30%	4.44	25%	4.60	Bonds	-0.07	-0.05 ←	-0.12
		5.79		6.01	Total	-0.12	-0.10	-0.22
					Sec	cto		
					Allocation	Selection	Total	
			1.9	US Equity	-0.03	0.19	0.16	_
				LC	-0.014	0.075	0.06	
				MC	-0.011	0.075	0.06	
				sc	0.000	0.038	0.04	
			39					
			F	gn Equity		-0.175	→-0.22	
				Dev	-0.012	-0.075	-0.09	
				EM	-0.028	-0.100	-0.13	
					0.000	0.010	0.05	
				Bonds		-0.019	-0.05	
				HQ		0.056	0.05	
				HY	-0.021	-0.075	-0.10	



"Lumpy"

	Large Cap Attribution						trated)
Large Cap Sector Attribution	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Allocation	Selectio	Total
Communications	14.3%	7.20	12.1%	7.80	0.04	-0.09	-0.05
Consumer Discretionary	15.5%	10.50	13.6%	10.60	0.09	-9.02	0.07
Consumer Staples	6.6%	3.50	7.3%	3.60	0.02	-0.01	0.01
Energy	1.0%	-10.00	2.5%	-9.80	0.24	-0.002	0.24
Financials	13.0%	-1.50	13.1%	-1.30	0.01	-0.03	-0.02
Health Care	15.6%	4.80	16.5%	5.10	0.01	-0.05	-0.04
Industrials	9.3%	3.30	9.7%	3.70	0.01	-0.04	-0.03
Information Technology	17.2%	14.60	17.0%	14.60	0.02	0.00	0.02
Materials	3.0%	5.70	2.7%	6.20	0.00	-0.015	-0.01
Real Estate	2.0%	-2.30	2.5%	-2.10	0.04	-0.004	0.04
Utilities	2.5%	-1.40	3.0%	-1.00	0.04	-0.01	0.03
Total		6.25		- 6.00	0.50	-0.25	0.25



Mid Ca	o Attri	bution
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Mid Cap Sector Attribution	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Allocation	Selection	Total
Communications	14.6%	9.10	11.7%	9.10	0.14	0,00	0.14
Consumer Discretionary	15.9%	12.40	13.6%	12.40	0.18	0.00	0.18
Consumer Staples	6.8%	4.20	6.8%	4.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy	1.0%	-11.40	9.1%	-11.40	1.28	0.00	1.28
Financials	12.7%	-1.50	10.0%	-1.50	-0.16	0.00	-0.16
Health Care	15.8%	6.00	8.8%	6.00	0.11	0.00	0.11
Industrials	9.5%	4.40	7.2%	4.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Information Technology	16.0%	17.00	24.8%	17.00	-1.11	0.00	-1.11
Materials	3.0%	7.20	2.6%	7.20	0.01	0.00	0.01
Real Estate	2.1%	-2.50	2.5%	-2.50	0.03	0.00	0.03
Utilities	2.6%	-1.20	2.9%	-1.20	0.02	0.00	0.02
Total		7.50		7.00	0.50	0.00	0.50



		Sma	II Cap A	ttributio	n		
Small Cap Sector Attribution	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Allocation	Selection	Total
Communications	9.4%	8.32	12.0%	10.40	-0.16	-0.20	-0.35
Consumer Discretionary	10.6%	13.13	13.5%	14.20	-0.28	/-0.11	-0.40
Consumer Staples	6.3%	3.63	7.0%	4.80	0.00	-0.07	-0.08
Energy	1.2%	0.00	5.8%	-13.00	0.80	0.16	0.96
Financials	19.9%	0.00	11.6%	-1.70	-0.51	0.34	-0.17
Health Care	10.8%	5.35	12.7%	6.90	-0.05	-0.17	-0.21
Industrials	7.8%	3.46	8.3%	5.00	0.00	-0.12	-0.12
Information Technology	25.1%	21.18	20.9%	19.40	0.63	0.45	1.08
Materials	3.1%	5.86	2.7%	8.20	0.02	-0.07	-0.06
Real Estate	3.7%	0.00	2.5%	-2.90	-0.09	0.11	> 0.02
Utilities	2.1%	0.00	3.0%	-1.50	0.05	0.03	0.08
Total	it.	8.75		8.00	0.41	0.34	0.75



Level Three Insights

Sector Attribution

Portfolio Effects

	Allocation	Selection	Total
US Equity	-0.050	0.375	0.325
LC	-0.028	0.150	0.123
мс	-0.023	0.150	0.128
sc	0.000	0.075	0.075

Allocation	Selection	Total
-0.03	(0.19)	0.16
-0.014	0.075	0.06
-0.011	0.075	0.06
0.000	0.038	0.04

Pro-rate attribution by Asset Class weight (50%) And Sector weights

(60/30/10)

Level Three US Equity Attribution

	Allocation	Selection	Total
LC	0.15	-0.07	0.07
MC	0.07	0.00	0.07
SC	0.02	0.02	0.04
Total	0.25	(-0.06)	0.19

Correct analysis:
Good Allocation
Poor stock selection



Hierarchical Attribution for Single-Asset Portfolios

A Necessity for Fund Managers



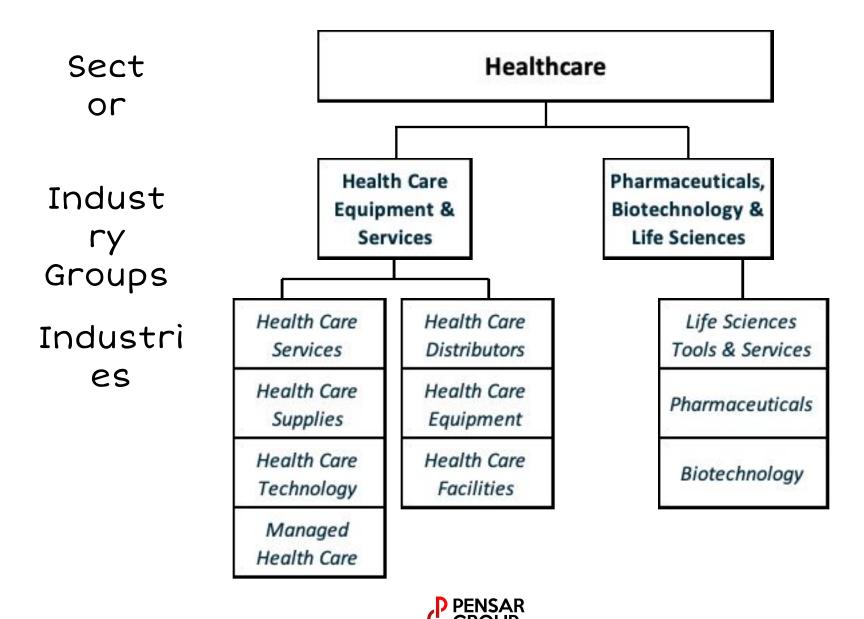
Large Cap Sector Attribution	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Allocation	Selection	Total
Communications	14.3%	7.20	12.1%	7.80	0.04	-0.09	-0.05
Consumer Discretionary	15.5%	10.50	13.6%	10.60	0.09	-0.02	0.07
Consumer Staples	6.6%	3.50	7.3%	3.60	0.02	-0.01	0.01
Energy	1.0%	-10.00	2.5%	-9.80	0.24	-0.002	0.24
Financials	13.0%	-1.50	13.1%	-1.30	0.01	-0.03	-0.02
Health Care	15.6%	4.80	16.5%	5.10	0.01	-0.05	-0.04
Industrials	9.3%	3.30	9.7%	3.70	0.01	-0.04	-0.03
Information Technology	17.2%	14.60	17.0%	14.60	0.02	0.00	0.02
Materials	3.0%	5.70	2.7%	6.20	0.00	-0.015	-0.01
Real Estate	2.0%	-2.30	2.5%	-2.10	0.04	-0.004	0.04
Utilities	2.5%	-1.40	3.0%	-1.00	0.04	-0.01	0.03
Total		6.25		6.00	0.50	-0.25	0.25

Good Allocation, Bad stock picking?





Hierarchy of Three Decisions



Sector	Benchmark Return	Portfolio Return	
Health Care	5.10	4.80	

Bad stock picking?

Industry Group	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return
Health Care Equipment & Services	46.7%	2.72	60.3%	3.35
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	53.3%	7.19	39.7%	7.00

0.63

-0.18





Sector Attribution	Industry Group Allocation	Other Active Decisions	Total
Health Care Equipment & Services	-0.32	0.38	0.06
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	-0.28	-0.07	-0.36
Total	-0.61	0.31	-0.30

Switches to **good** stock picking?





	Industry Analysis (Level Three)	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return	Non- Nested Active Weight	Nested Active Weight
	Health Care Distributors	1.7%	1.40	3.5%	2.2	1.9%	2.3%
0	Health Care Equipment	25.7%	2.50	31.2%	3.2	5.5%	-3.3%
2	Health Care Facilities	1.1%	-3.50	5.1%	-0.1	4.0%	6.2%
(A)	Health Care Services	4.8%	7.50	6.1%	8.8	1.3%	-0.2%
*	Health Care Supplies	1.6%	2.90	4.5%	2.0	2.9%	4.0%
0	Health Care Technology	0.5%	1.40	1.5%	1.9	1.0%	1.3%
3	Managed Health Care	11.3%	2.00	8.4%	3.5	-2.9%	-10.3%
	Life Sciences Tools & Services	8.6%	4.50	5.8%	3.8	-2.8%	-1.5%
(B)	Pharmaceuticals	29.1%	7.00	24.4%	6.4	-4.7%	6.9%
8	Biotechnology	15.7%	9.00	9.5%	10.5	-6.2%	-5.5%
8			5.10		4.80		

- Huge Range of Industry Returns
- · Non-nested Weightings are Wrong



Health Care Equipment & Services

Industry	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return	Allocation	Selection	Total
Health Care Distributors	3.5%	1.4	5.8%	2.2	-0.03	0.05	0.02
Health Care Equipment	55.1%	2.5	51.7%	3.2	0.01	0.36	0.37
Health Care Facilities	2.3%	-3.5	8.5%	-0.1	-0.38	0.29	-0.10
Health Care Services	10.3%	7.5	10.1%	8.8	-0.01	0.13	0.12
Health Care Supplies	3.5%	2.9	7.5%	2.0	0.01	-0.07	-0.06
Health Care Technology	1.2%	1.4	2.5%	1.9	-0.02	0.01	-0.01
Managed Health Care	24.2%	2.0	13.9%	3.5	0.07	0.21	0.28

2.72

(-0.35)

3.35

0.98

0.63

Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences

Industry	Benchmark Weight	Benchmark Return	Portfolio Weight	Portfolio Return	Allocation	Selection	Total
ife Sciences Tools & Services	16.1%	4.5	14.6%	3.8	0.04	-0.10	-0.06
Pharmaceuticals	54.6%	7.0	61.5%	6.4	-0.01	-0.37	-0.38
Biotechnology	29.4%	9.0	23.9%	10.5	-0.10	0.36	0.26
	- 1	7.19		7.00	(-0.07)	(-0.11)	-0.18

Health Care Sector Attribution Analysis

Health Care Sector Attribution Analysis	Industry GROUP Allocation	INDUSTRY Allocation	Selection Residual	Total	
Health Care Equipment & Services	-0.32	-0.21	0.59		
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology & Life Sciences	-0.28	-0.03	-0.04	-0.36	
Total	-0.61	-0.24	0.55	-0.30	

An amazing "Reversal of Fortune" for Stock Picking!

- •-30 bps stock selection effect (non-hierarchical approach)
- •-85 bps industry allocation and +55 bps stock selection effect



Summary Insights

- Active investing is driven by an allocation hierarchy - "where to invest"
- "Nested" attribution is only process that reflects investment decision process
- Essential for accuracy in BOTH multi-asset and single-asset-type portfolios (funds)
- Critical for evaluating significant resources devaluating significant resources devaluating significant recommending securities

Stephen Campisi, CFA Managing Director The Pensar Group 860.214.7504

www.thepensargrp.com
pensargrp@gmail.com
stevecampisicfa@comcast.net

"You can do this!"

