Idea of master theorem

Recursion tree:

$$f(n)$$

$$f(n/b) \quad f(n/b) \quad \cdots \quad f(n/b) \qquad a$$

$$f(n/b^2) \quad f(n/b^2) \quad \cdots \quad f(n/b^2) \qquad a$$

$$\vdots$$

$$T(1)$$