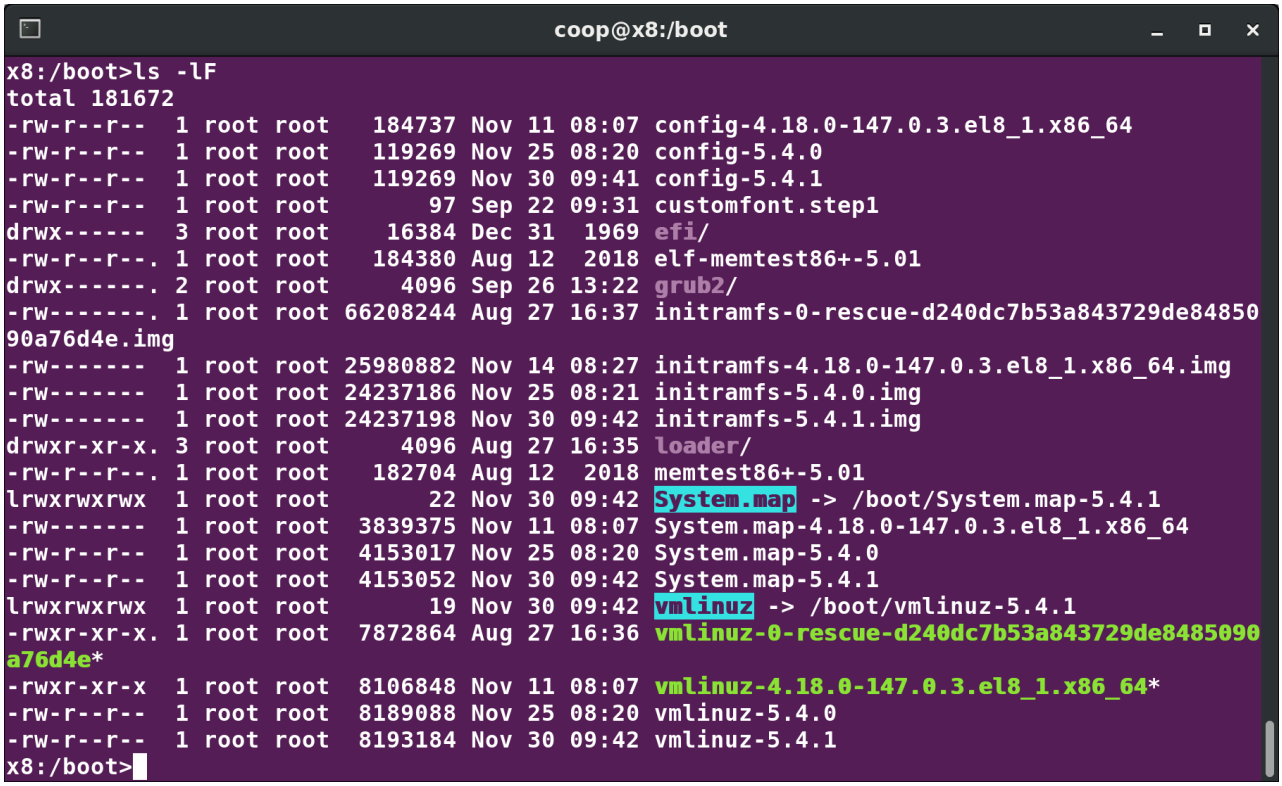
/boot Directory

coursera.org/learn/linux-for-developers/supplement/wn25A/boot-directory

A **/boot** directory might look like the one in the screenshot below:



In this example, there are multiple possible kernels to boot into, each of which has four files associated with it:

- **vmlinuz** is the compressed kernel
- **initramfs** contains a complete initial root filesystem which is loaded as a ramdisk, as well as some essential kernel modules (generally, device drivers) and the programs needed to load them, that are required to load the real filesystem, at which point it is discarded
- **config** contains all the details about how the kernel was compiled; it is not needed for system operation
- **System.map** lists the complete kernel symbol table; it is used only for debugging purposes

Depending on which Linux distribution is being used, there will be variations in the above possible kernels. For example, the **initramfs** file may actually be called **initrd**.