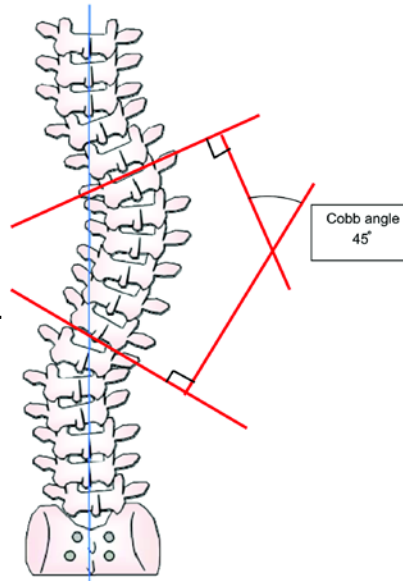**The magnitude of a curve is described as an angle (Cobb angle).**

To draw and measure the Cobb angle:

1. Identify the most tilted vertebra at the top of the curve (upper end vertebra) and draw a line parallel to its superior endplate.

2. Identify the most tilted vertebra at the bottom of the curve (lower end vertebra) and draw a line parallel to its inferior endplate.

3. Draw intersecting perpendicular lines from the lines drawn in Steps 1 & 2.

4. The angle formed is the Cobb angle for the given curve. Measure this angle.

Serial radiographs must be compared to assess curve progression or improvement during observation or after surgical correction of scoliosis. When comparing Cobb angles in pre- and postoperative x-rays, it is important to use the same vertebral endplates when drawing the Cobb angles to be compared.

Note: Cobb angles have a measurement margin of error between 6°- 7°.

Fig. E-1
Measurement of the Cobb angle.