In this post, I'll describe an easy method to change the fontsize of individual table columns in `Latex` documents.

I really love `pander`'s `pandoc.table` function because it wraps long strings across multiple lines. Consider the following example of a grades table for a student report card.

```r
library(pander)
grades <- data.frame(Class = c('Math', 'Reading', 'CS'),
                     Grade = c('B+', 'A-', 'C'),
                     Comments = c('Homework held you back. Make sure you get it in on time!',
                                  'Your final essay was very strong. One area of improvement is your su
                                  'You did very well on your homework, but your quarter project did not

knitr::kable(grades)
```

Class	Grade	Comments
Math	B+	Homework held you back. Make sure you get it in on time!
Reading	A-	Your final essay was very strong. One area of improvement is your supporting evidence. Remember to u
CS	C	You did very well on your homework, but your quarter project did not meet all the requirements. Based

```r
pandoc.table(grades)
```

Class	Grade	Comments
Math	B+	Homework held you back. Make sure you get it in on time!
Reading	A-	Your final essay was very strong. One area of improvement is your supporting evidence. Remember to use at least to pieces for each of your assertions.
CS	C	You did very well on your homework, but your quarter project did not meet all the requirements. Based on code, it looked like you rushed through it. Please schedule a meeting with me so we can discuss this issue.

When printing tables with long strings, `pandoc.table` has a clear advantage.

Now imagine, if there was limited space for the table in your document. Perhaps, there are several other tables or graphs you want to share. One way to adjust is to change the size of the font of the entire table using a code-block like `\\scriptsize`.

```r
cat('\\scriptsize')
```

```r
pandoc.table(grades)
```

Class	Grade	Comments
Math	B+	Homework held you back. Make sure you get it in on time!
Reading	A-	Your final essay was very strong. One area of improvement is your supporting evidence. Remember to use at least to pieces for each of your assertions.

Class	Grade	Comments
CS	C	You did very well on your homework, but your quarter project did not meet all the requirements. Based on code, it looked like you rushed through it. Please schedule a meeting with me so we can discuss this issue.

The disadvantage here is that the main pieces of information, class and grade, are difficult to read. An alternative is to only apply the new formatting to the comments column. We can accomplish this by adding the code block to the string.

```r
library(dplyr)
```

```
##
## Attaching package: 'dplyr'
```

```
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
##     filter, lag
```

```
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##     intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
```

```r
grades %>%
    mutate(Comments = paste('\\tiny', Comments)) %>%
    pandoc.table
```

Class	Grade	Comments
Math	B+	Homework held you back. Make sure you get it in on time!
Reading	A-	Your final essay was very strong. One area of improvement is your supporting evidence. Remember to use at least to pieces for each of your assertions.
CS	C	You did very well on your homework, but your quarter project did not meet all the requirements. Based on code, it looked like you rushed through it. Please schedule a meeting with me so we can discuss this issue.