'string' - 'str' as a shortcut for 'string.gsub("str", ")'?

02/29/2020 09:12 PM - vladpisanov (Vlad Pisanov)

**Status:** Open

**Priority:** Normal

**Assignee:**

**Target version:**

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**Description**

Sorry if this has been brought up before, but I couldn't find anything.

I love how we can subtract arrays ([1,2,3] - [1,2]). Does anyone else think the same syntax would be beneficial for Strings?

Some possible scenarios could be:

- `'string' - 'str'`  # Remove substring
- `'string' - ['s', 't']`  # Remove a set of characters
- `'string' - /^st/`  # Remove by regexp

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**History**

**#1 - 03/01/2020 07:07 AM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)**

For removing a set of characters, there is already String#delete. And for your other cases, there is a similar proposal [https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/issues/12698](https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/issues/12698).

**#2 - 03/01/2020 08:38 PM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)**

Does anyone else think the same syntax would be beneficial for Strings?

I do not doubt that it can be useful. One advantage of your proposal is that it is very short and succinct.

Personally, though, I prefer .gsub() or .gsub!(), and .delete or sawa’s suggestion.

I don't have anything against "-" per se and as you showed that Array has the method, the same could perhaps be used for class String. But this may be a design decision (I don't know).

But perhaps there is a design consideration matz considered (or not, I really do not know). It may be best to ask matz about - for class String.

I would also recommend to contrast your proposal to what sawa suggested; for example, you could propose - to be an alias of String#delete, or something else. That may be helpful or perhaps simpler. (I myself really don't know)