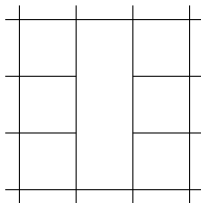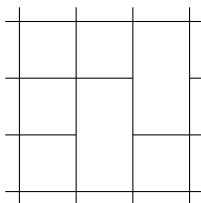(a) One missing qubit defect on a toric code lattice.

(b) Two adjacent missing qubit defects on a toric code lattice.

(c) Two distant missing qubit defects on a toric code lattice.

Figure 1: Depiction of different situations where missing qubit defects are inserted on a toric code lattice. In the case of more than one missing link the ground space for the system depends on whether the defects are adjacent to each other.