Response to Reviewer 2

Point 1: Authors note in the response that "Typical parameters of pumps used in 3.5 μm fiber laser [Zhipeng Qin, Guoqiang Xie, Jingui Ma, Peng Yuan, and Liejia Qian, "Mid-infrared Er:ZBLAN fiber laser reaching 3.68 μm wavelength," Chin. Opt. Lett. 15, 111402- (2017)] are: 976 nm diode with a pigtail fiber of 105 μm core diameter and 0.2 NA; 1976 nm Tm3+:SiO2 fiber with a diameter of 10/130 μm and NA of 0.15. Er3+:ZBLAN fiber used here have a core diameter of 16.5 μm and NA of 0.15, clad diameter of 240x260 μm (double D shape) and NA of 0.5. The refractive index of the ZBLAN fiber core is 1.483.
The reasons why core pumping is used for 1976 nm pump is all about absorption rate. For a 16.5/240x260 fiber, the absorption rate of 1976 nm pump at core pump scheme is over 100 times higher than at clad pump scheme, as shown in figure 5 (c)." But the introduction of the revised manuscript does not include these comments.

Response 1: In last revision, I described the reason why core pumping is used for 1976 nm pump simply as "for higher pump absorption rate." Now I understand this may be not clear enough for readers. In all reported articles for 3.5 μm ZBLAN fiber lasers, authors didn't explain the core pumping of P_{1976} beyond "for higher pump absorption rate." And in the introduction part, it would be a little awkward to say too much about this. We revise it as follows:

DWP scheme requires a 976 nm pump (P_{976}) and a 1976 nm pump (P_{1976}) as shown in figure A1. By now the P_{1976} in DWP schemes must be core coupled to the active fiber to have enough pump absorption rate. And high beam quality laser at 1976 nm is essential for core pumping, …

Point 2: Please, see the equation (A7) on line 265. There is nothing under the summation sign. Thus equation (A7) still does not have indexed variables.

Response 2: Equation (A7) is fixed. Besides, the explanation of how R_{02} is replaced with R_{GSA} is rewritten in page 3 line 14.

$$\frac{dN_0(z,t)}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} r_{i0} N_i - R_{GSA} + R_{1103} + R_{2206} - R_{5031}, \quad \text{(A7)}$$

Point 3: Please, check the English in the corrections, for example, "Because most 1976 nm lasers are transporting in fiber clad".

Response 3: English is checked, several corrections and improvements are made including the mentioned one. Revisions are marked up using the "Track Changes" function. Thanks so much for your carefully review!