## **Supporting Information**

## Self-assembled metamaterial perfect absorbers at visible wavelengths using core-shell Au@SiO<sub>2</sub> meta-atoms

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## S1. Synthesis of Au NP colloids

Au NP colloids with grain size of ~45 nm were synthesized as follows: 30 mL of 1,5-pentanediol (PD) solution was firstly boiled and refluxed at 230 °C under constant stirring in an oil bath. After 10 min, 0.2 mL of 15 mM AgNO<sub>3</sub> in PD was quickly added, next, a mixture of PVP (6 mL, 150 mM) and HAuCl<sub>4</sub> (3 mL, 50 mM) in PD was introduced at an uniform speed within 9 min. The resulting mixture was continuously heated at reflux for 1h, whereafter it was cooled to room temperature. The wine-red Au NP products were purified and collected by centrifugation (15000 rpm, 30 min) and washed repeatedly with water and ethanol in turn. The final Au NP colloids (with concentration of 0.8 g/L) were obtained through resuspending the asprepared Au NP samples into an appropriate amount of water solution.



Fig.S1 Absorption spectra of the self-assembled 4-layer of  $Au@SiO_2$  meta-atoms (black solid line) and the individual sputtering-deposited Al film (red solid line) on the Si substrates.



Fig. S2 The measured absorption (a, b) and transmission spectra (c, d) of the selfassembled MAs with different thicknesses of Al nanofilm. TE- (a, c) and TM- (b, d) polarized incidence are considered. The incident angles are both 45°.



Fig. S3 TE-polarized light absorption spectra of the self-assembled MAs with different layers of Au@SiO<sub>2</sub> meta-atoms.