Longtemps and longuement are two French duration adverbs, which can be both roughly translated with «for long». Traditional grammars usually treat them as simple synonyms, but they do differ and this difference presumably determines their different distributional properties.

Longtemps behaves as an event adverb. In fact, it can have a parenthetical use (1.) and be the object of negation (2.), clefting (3.) and interrogation (4.):

1. (Longtemps,) Max a (, longtemps,) cru (, longtemps,) qu’il y parviendrait.
   (For long), Max has (for long) thought (for long) that he would manage it
   «Max thought for long that he would manage it.»
2. Max n’a pas occupé ce poste longtemps.
   Max not, has not occupied this place for long
   «Max didn’t occupy this position for long.»
3. C’est longtemps que j’ai réfléchi à la question.
   It is for long that I have reflected to the question
   «FOR A LONG WHILE I reflected about the question.»
4. Est-ce que Pierre a longtemps parlé?
   Is it that Pierre has for long spoken?
   «Did Pierre speak for long?»

On the contrary, longuement is a verbal adverb and its parenthetical, negated or clefted use is very problematic. However, it can be the object of interrogation.

* I wish to thank Maria Teresa Bisson, Guglielmo Cinque, Marie-Christine Jamet and Dominique Sportiche for their native judgements and/or helpful comments and suggestions.
5. *Il n'a pas longuement occupé ce poste.
   He not_has not for long occupied this place
6. ??C'est longuement que j'ai réfléchi à la question.
   It is for long that I have reflected to the question
   «FOR A LONG WHILE I reflected about the question.»
7. Avez-vous longuement réfléchi avant de prendre cette décision?
   Have you for long reflected before of taking this decision
   «Did you reflect a long while before taking this decision?»
8. (*Longuement,) j'ai (??, longuement,) réfléchi à la question
    (??, longuement).
   (*For long) I have (??, for long,) reflected to the question
    (??, for long).
   «I reflected about the question for long.»

Their selectional properties are also different: longtemps is compatible with all kinds of predicates; state predicates (9.), activity predicates (11.), accomplishment predicates (12.) and achievement predicates (13.), whereas longuement selects activity predicates and predicates indicating a temporary quality. Then it can be claimed that longuement requires the homogeneity of action, while longtemps has often an iterative reading.

   Pierre has for long been sickly
   «Pierre has been sickly for long.»
    Pierre has been for long sick
    «Pierre was sick for long.»
11. Max a longtemps/*longuement cherché une solution.
    Max has for long looked for a solution
    «Max has looked for a solution for long.»
12. Les travaux ont longtemps/*longuement été faits avec un outillage de fortune.
    The works have for long been done with an equipment of fortune
    «The works have been done with makeshift tools for long.»
    Max has for long found art_indef solutions
    «Max used to find solutions for a long time.»
    Max has for long crossed the Atlantic Ocean
    «Max used to cross the Atlantic Ocean for a long time.»
In other terms, longuement indicates the duration of an uninterrupted action, while longtemps can indicate both how long the same uninterrupted action lasts and how long a repeated action lasts. For example, in (15.) Maxime eats his ice-cream slowly, so that it takes long for him to finish it. Instead, (16.) is ambiguous: Maxime can either have eaten his ice-cream slowly or have eaten ice-cream again and again over some years.

15. Maxime a longuement mangé de la glace.
16. Maxime a longtemps mangé de la glace.
   Maxime has for long eaten of the ice-cream
   «Maxime has eaten ice-cream for long.»

   Between the two, only longtemps answers to the question
   Combien de temps...? «How long...?» and it accepts prepositions and verbs of duration.

17. – Combien de temps Maxime a-t-il réfléchi à la question?
    – Trois ans/ Longtemps/ *Longuement.
    How much of time Maxime has he reflected to the question
    – Three years/ For long
    «How long did Maxime reflect upon the question? – Three years/ A long while.»

18. Pierre n’a pas ouvert la bouche pendant longtemps/*longuement.
    Pierre not q. has not opened the mouth during for long
    «Pierre hasn’t opened his mouth a long while.»

19. Les recherches de Maxime ont duré longtemps/*longuement.
    The researches of Maxime have lasted for long
    «Maxime’s pieces of research lasted a long while.»

All these data support the claim that longtemps and longuement are not synonyms. In fact, if we try to locate them into the universal hierarchy of adverbs formulated by Cinque (‘99), their apparent equivalence is confirmed by the fact that, with respect to other adverbs, they apparently occupy exactly the same position. Both longtemps and longuement follow bientôt «soon» and precede presque «almost» – this is to say, they actually are in the same position as the semantically opposite duration adverb brièvement «briefly». This conclusion is supported by the fact that they both follow all the adverbs higher than bientôt and lower than presque. However, with respect to each other they are strictly hierarchically ordered – that is, longtemps can only precede longuement (39-40).
It is difficult to determine whether their English equivalent for long has their same behaviour. Actually, since for long is not a proper adverb, but rather a Prepositional Phrase, it should not be expected to be found in the same position as longtemps/ longuement or brièvement.

Here is the general hierarchy:

[Frankly Moodspeech act [Fortunately Moodevaluative [allegedly Moodevidential [probably Moodepistemic [once T (Past) [then T (Future) [perhaps Moodirreal [necessarily Moodnecessity [possibly Modpossibility [usually Asp habitual [again Asp repetitive (I) [often Aspfrequentive (I) [intentionally Modvolitional [quickly Aspcelerative (I) [already T (Anterior) [no longer Aspterminative [still Aspcontinuous [always Aspperfect [just Asp retrospective [soon Aspproximative [briefly Aspdurative [characteristically (?) Asp generic/progressive [almost Asppossessive [completely AspSg completive (I) [tout AspPI completive [well Voice [fast/early Aspcelerative (I) [completely AspSg completive (II) [again Asp repetitive (II) [often Aspfrequentive (II) ]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]

Since both longtemps and longuement are two lower adverbs, I tested their location starting from toujours. Let us examine longtemps first:

20a. On a toujours longtemps attendu une nouveauté en Italie.
PRON impers has always for-long waited for a novelty in Italy.
«We've always waited for a novelty a long while in Italy.»
20b. *On a longtemps toujours attendu une nouveauté en Italie.
21a. Le public a récemment longtemps applaudi Maria Callas.
The audience has recently for long applauded Maria Callas.
«The audience has recently applauded Maria Callas for long.»
21b. *Le public a longtemps récemment applaudi Maria Callas.
22a. La radio a bientôt # longtemps transmis ce message à toutes les heures.
The radio has soon for long transmitted this message hourly.
«The radio has soon transmitted this message hourly for long.»

1 I present the English version of Cinque's (1999) hierarchy because it is the original version and a few French adverbs do not correspond to the universal projections perfectly — it is impossible to distinguish alors «once» from alors «then» and there is not a French exact equivalent of «possibly».

2 The sign ‘#’ stands for a pause in the sentence, which I considered as irrelevant, since (22a) contrasts sharply with (22b).
22b. *La radio a longtemps bientôt transmis ce message à toutes les heures.
23a. *Ce film à la télé a presque longtemps bouleversé la demoiselle.
23b. Ce film à la télé a longtemps presque bouleversé la demoiselle.
This film on the TV has for long almost upset the young lady
«This film on TV has almost upset the young lady for a long while.»
24a. *Les épidémies ont complètement longtemps ravagé cette zone.
24b. Les épidémies ont longtemps complètement ravagé cette zone.
The epidemics have for long completely ravaged this zone
«Epidemics have completely ravaged this zone for long.»
25b. Les agriculteurs ont longtemps tout essayé.
The farmers have for long everything tried
«The farmers have tried everything for long.»
26a. *Ce politicien-là a très bien longtemps combattu l'inflation.
26b. Ce politicien-là a longtemps très bien combattu l'inflation.
This politician-there has for long very well fought the inflation
«That politician has fought inflation very well for long.»

Since there are two layers of de nouveau «again», vite «quickly», rarement «rarely», we would expect longtemps to freely precede and follow it. As to de nouveau, this option is probably ruled out by semantic reasons. On the contrary, it is possible with vite and rarement, though their reciprocal scope determines a difference in meaning.
27a. Les écologistes ont de nouveau longtemps combattu la pollution.
The environmentalists have again for long fought the pollution
«Environmentalists have fought pollution again for long.»
27b. *Les écologistes ont longtemps de nouveau combattu la pollution.

3 I tested the modified form très bien «very well» in order to avoid the reading in which bien «well» modifies longtemps «for long» yielding bien longtemps «for a very long time». 
28a. Les bureaucrates ont *longtemps rarement* pratiqué du sport.
The bureaucrats have for long rarely practised some sport.
«For long, bureaucrats have rarely practised some sport.»

28b. Les bureaucrates ont *rarement longtemps* pratiqué du sport.
The bureaucrats have rarely for long practised some sport.
«Bureaucrats have rarely practised some sport for long.»

29a. Les gens se sont *vite longtemps* méfiés de la politique.
The people reflexive are quickly for long distrusted of the politics.
«People quickly distrusted politics for long.»

29b. Les gens se sont *longtemps vite* méfiés de la politique.
The people reflexive are for long quickly distrusted of the politics.
«For long, people have quickly distrusted politics.»

Then we can look at *longuement*:

30a. Les touristes ont *toujours longuement* visité cette ville.
The tourists have always for long visited this town.
«Tourists always visited this town for long.»

30b. *Les touristes ont *longuement toujours* visité cette ville

31a. Les membres du comité ont *récemment longuement* discuté ce projet.
The members of the committee have recently for long discussed this project.
«The members of the committee have recently discussed this project for long.»


32a. Les admirateurs de Pavarotti l’ont *bientôt longuement* sifflé.
The fans of Pavarotti him reflexive have soon for long whistled.
«Pavarotti’s fans soon whistled at him a long while.»


33b. Les copains de Martin l’ont *longuement presque* idéalisé.
The schoolmates of Martin him reflexive have for long almost idealised.
«Martin’s schoolmates almost idealised him for long.»

34a. *Le deuil l’a *complètement longuement* bouleversé.

34b. Le deuil l’a *longuement complètement* bouleversé.
The bereavement him enjoyed for long completely deranged. «Bereavement completely deranged him for long.»

With tout «everything», both orders are possible, though with a difference of intonation and perhaps of scope. Instead, bien «well» can only follow longuement.

35a. On a tout longuement révisé.
35b. On a longuement tout révisé.
PRON impers has for long everything revised.
«We revised everything for long.»

36a. *Le directeur a très bien longuement écouté Hélène.
36b. Le directeur a longuement très bien écouté Hélène.
The director has for long very well listened to Hélène.
«The director listened to Hélène very well for long.»

With de nouveau «again», it is possible for longuement to precede it and to follow it:

37a. Les affaires ont de nouveau longuement retenu Daniel.
37b. Les affaires ont longuement de nouveau retenu Daniel.
The businesses has for long again kept Daniel.
«Daniel was kept again by his businesses for long.»

Instead, rarement «rarely» presents some difficulty:

38a. Les frères Taviani ont rarement longuement travaillé sur les pays orientaux.
The brothers Taviani have rarely for long worked on the countries eastern.
«The Taviani brothers have rarely worked on eastern countries for long.»
38b. *Les frères Taviani ont longuement rarement travaillé sur les pays orientaux.

As said above, the two adverbs' mutual order is longtemps > longuement:

39a. On a longtemps longuement chanté cette chanson.
PRON impers has for long for long sung this song.
«We have sung this song a long while for a long time.»
39b. * On a longuement longtemps chanté cette chanson.

As both longtemps and longuement can follow the past participle, their reciprocal order is respected also in this configuration.
40a. On a *longtemps* chanté *longuement* cette chanson.

PRON_{impers} has for long sung for long this song.

«We have sung this song a long while for a long time.»

40b. *On a *longuement* chanté *longtemps* cette chanson.

Consequently, it can be claimed that there are two distinct layers of adverbs of duration. Since Anscombe ('94) suggested that *longtemps* and *longuement* express an objective and a subjective evaluations of duration respectively, it could be claimed that their corresponding aspctual heads are characterised as Asp\textsubscript{durative-obj} and Asp\textsubscript{durative-subj}. Of course, this requires a confirmation from other data. For simplicity's sake, let us call the first head Asp\textsubscript{durative (I)} and the second one Asp\textsubscript{durative (II)}. Which one of these two brièvement belongs to will be the object of new research.

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\text{[Frankly MOOD\textsubscript{speech act} [fortunately MOOD\textsubscript{evaluative} [allegedly MOOD\textsubscript{evidential [probably MOOD\textsubscript{epistemic} (once T (Past) [then T (Future) [perhaps MOOD\textsubscript{reality [necessarily MOOD\textsubscript{necessity} [possibly MOD\textsubscript{possibility} [usually Asp\textsubscript{habitual [again Asp\textsubscript{repetitive (I) [often Asp\textsubscript{frequentative (I) [intentionally MOD\textsubscript{volitional [quickly Asp\textsubscript{celerative (I) [already T (Anterior) [no longer Asp\textsubscript{terminative [still Asp\textsubscript{continuative [always Asp\textsubscript{perfect [just Asp\textsubscript{retrospective [soon Asp\textsubscript{proximate [longtemps Asp\textsubscript{durative (I) [longuement Asp\textsubscript{durative (II) [characteristically (?) Asp\textsubscript{generic/progressive [almost Asp\textsubscript{perspective [completely Asp\textsubscript{épique Completive [well Voice [fast/early Asp\textsubscript{celerative (I) [completely Asp\textsubscript{épique Completive (II) [again Asp\textsubscript{repetitive (II) [often Asp\textsubscript{frequentative (II) ]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]}
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Bibliography


A NOTE ON LONGTEMPS-LONGUEMENT


ABSTRACT
This squib examines the semantic, selectional and distributional properties of two French duration adverbs, longtemps and longuement. Despite grammars traditionally treat them as synonyms, longtemps behaves as an event adverb, while longuement is a verbal adverb. They are both found in the position reserved to adverbs of duration in the universal hierarchy of adverbs established by Cinque (1999). However, longtemps can only precede longuement, as in the hierarchy event adverbs are always on the left of verbal adverbs.

KEY WORDS
Longtemps. Longuement. Word order.