**Apache Parquet** is an open-source, **column-oriented data file format** designed for efficient data storage and retrieval. [It provides efficient data compression and encoding schemes with enhanced performance to handle complex data in bulk1](https://parquet.apache.org/)[2](https://parquet.staged.apache.org/docs/overview/)[3](https://www.databricks.com/glossary/what-is-parquet).

Here are **five free reference links** where you can learn more about Apache Parquet:

1. [**Apache Parquet Documentation**](https://parquet.apache.org/): The official documentation provides detailed information about the format, usage, and best practices.
2. [**Overview on Apache Parquet**](https://parquet.staged.apache.org/docs/overview/)[: This overview explains how Parquet is a columnar storage format available to any project in the Hadoop ecosystem, regardless of the choice of data processing framework, data model, or programming language](https://parquet.apache.org/)[4](https://parquet.apache.org/docs/overview/).
3. [**Databricks Glossary: What Is Apache Parquet?**](https://www.databricks.com/glossary/what-is-parquet): Databricks offers a concise explanation of Apache Parquet’s purpose and features.
4. [**Wikipedia: Apache Parquet**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_Parquet): Learn about Parquet’s role as a free and open-source column-oriented data storage format in the Apache Hadoop ecosystem.
5. [**Follow Apache Parquet on Twitter**](https://parquet.apache.org/): Stay updated with news, releases, and community discussions related to Parquet.

Feel free to explore these resources to deepen your understanding of Apache Parquet! 🚀